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Arabs seek U.N. session

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab group of states called Wednesday for a meeting of the Security Council to consider the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The move, announced by U.N. spokeswoman Nadia Younes, came after the Palestine observer mission here said in a letter to the council that the "dangerous situation requires official consideration by the Security Council." Younes said no date had been set for the council meeting. Nasser Al Kidwa, acting head of the Palestine mission, told reporters Tuesday that the council should adopt a resolution condemning Israel for its policies and practices. "A U.S. State Department report on human rights issued this week mentioned 'a substantial increase in human rights violations' by the Israelis, mostly involving the uprising. Kidwa told reporters he welcomed the American report but this had not motivated the Palestinian moves as the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Executive Committee already had decided to ask for Security Council measures. Council members have been weighing an earlier Palestinian request for action for several days.

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King voices pride in Armed Forces

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Wednesday called at the Headquarters of the Fourth Royal Mechanized Division and met with its commanders and officers who briefed him on the unit's training programmes and other activities. The King made a brief speech to the troops on the current Arab and international affairs and Jordan's efforts to achieve solidarity among Arab countries. The monarch voiced deep confidence and pride in the role played by the Armed Forces and its capabilities, skill and performance. The King was accompanied on the visit by Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker, Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb, and senior army officers.



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday addresses officers of the Fourth Royal Armoured Division (Petra photo)

Boeing crashes on Azores, 144 killed

LISBON, Portugal (Agencies) — A Boeing 707 aircraft crashed Wednesday into a mountain on the mid-Atlantic Azores Islands, killing all 144 people on board, a Portuguese news agency reported. The aircraft, carrying 137 passengers and seven crew members, crashed around 1430 GMT into Pico Alto, a mountain in Santa Maria, said Guadalupe Cordero, dispatcher at Santa Maria airport. This aircraft was flying from Italy to the Dominican Republic when it crashed into the 547-metre mountain, said an official at the rescue services base in Angra do Heroismo, on the island of Terceira. "Two bodies have already been recovered and there appear to be no survivors..." said a local official helping with rescue operations. "The debris is spread out over a large area." "Local people said they saw the plane crash into a mountain and catch fire about seven kilometres from the airport," the official said. There was no word on the nationality of the passengers on the plane, which belonged to independent Air, a U.S. company based in Atlanta, Georgia. Portuguese naval vessels with medical teams were steaming to the island, one of the most remote of the Azores archipelago which lies about one-third of the way across the Atlantic. The Azores, a group of nine islands which make up an autonomous region of Portugal, have about 250,000 people and their beaches are popular spots for tourists. In Italy, a spokesman at Bergamo airport said by telephone that 137 passengers were Italian and the plane's seven-man crew was American. He said Italian tour companies had organised the charter. Santa Maria lies about 1,900 kilometres from the Portuguese mainland and communications with the island are poor. Local governments based on the nearby island of Miguel said the pilot had tried the airport to prepare for an emergency landing shortly before the crash. The U.S. armed forces have a big air and naval base at Lajes on the island of Terceira, north of Santa Maria. The last major Portuguese air accident occurred years ago when a plane crashed on the island of Madeira about 800 kilometres southwest of Lisbon, and killed more than 120 people. Orien Dickerson, executive vice-president of Independent Air, said from his office in Smyrna, Tennessee, that his company flew charter flights for civilians. He said a company plane had been bound for Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic, but he had no details on the accident. The worst commercial airline disaster in 1988 occurred on July 3 when U.S. forces in the Gulf accidentally destroyed an Iranian Airbus, killing 290 people. A Pan Am Boeing 747 was blown up over Scotland Dec. 21, killing 297 passengers and crew and 11 people on the ground.

Speculation, manipulation behind unwarranted foreign exchange fluctuation Violations prompt closure of moneychanging firms

AMMAN (Petra) — The government Wednesday revoked the licenses of all non-bank exchange firms and closed down their offices after seizing their books and records in a move against violations of regulations and tampering with the national economy. An order issued by the military governor also froze bank accounts of moneychangers so as to safeguard the interests of other parties and that the seized books and records of moneychangers would be duly examined. The order was accompanied by a statement which noted that Jordan had been facing certain conditions that affected the region and led to failure by Arab countries to fulfill their financial obligations to the Kingdom under the 1978 Baghdad summit resolutions. This resulted in a decline in Jordan's foreign currency reserves and forced the country to adopt a set of economic measures designed to control spending and rationalise the use of foreign currency in line with national priorities. In conformity with the measures, the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) maintained contacts with banks, other financial institutions and moneychangers in a bid to ensure their cooperation in stabilising the Jordanian dinar's rate of exchange, to guarantee the flow of foreign currency into the Kingdom with a view to serving the higher national interests and to prevent any currency speculation and other manipulations that would harm country's economic security, the statement said. These moves, it said, had led to stability in the dinar's rate of exchange since the banks and financial institutions adhered to the regulations, which continued to be reassessed. But, the statement said, moneychangers were violating the regulations and agreements despite warnings from the CBJ and continued to conduct illegal practices and irresponsible actions. The CBJ established beyond doubt that the moneychangers' action prompted the unwarranted rise in the exchange rates of foreign currencies in relation to the dinar, the statement said. The Central Bank informed the authorities of the disgraceful action on the part of the moneychangers in violation of all laws and regulations and their practices that reflect greed, speculation with the national currency and manipulation of the rate of exchange of the dinar in a bid to acquire monopoly on foreign currency dealings and to gain unlawful profits and tamper with the country's economic security, according to the statement. Demand and supply A comprehensive study of the whole situation in all its aspects found that the Kingdom's revenues of foreign exchange through the banking system were sufficient to meet the need of all banks and more, the statement said. It was also found that the fluctuations in the rate of exchange of the dinar is not related to the forces of demand and supply as much as it is linked to speculations on the part of moneychangers, it said. The closure of the moneychanging firms, the statement said, is intended to restore stability to the Kingdom's monetary situation and create a free and responsible atmosphere for the Jordanian citizen to deal with foreign currency through banks and financial institutions and protect the citizen from exploitation. Violators warned Minister of Interior Rajai Da-



Authorities Wednesday close down non-bank moneychangers in downtown Amman (Photo by Yusef Al 'Allan)

Ministry, CBJ Governor Hussein Al Qasem said the moneychangers "abused the freedom given to them and conducted operations similar to those of commercial banks." "They maintained accounts in foreign banks for illegal purposes and thus violated CBJ regulations," he added. He said moneychangers facilitated smuggling of money outside the country and financed undeclared imports and settled invoices abroad, thus evading of customs duties and income tax. Press briefing Explaining the background of the decision to journalists at a meeting held at the Information

Joint higher committee meets today Jordan, Syria aim to boost cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee opens a meeting in Amman Thursday under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and his Syrian counterpart, Mahmoud Al Zou'bi. The committee will hold three working sessions designed to bolster bilateral cooperation in economy, agriculture, trade, transport and irrigation, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said. The agency said that the Jordanian side to the talks would include the ministers of education, foreign affairs, information, public works and housing, industry and trade, and supply as well as the Central Bank governor and a group of specialists. The Syrian side will include the ministers of economic affairs, agrarian reform, transport, economy and foreign trade, industry and foreign affairs. Jordan and Syria are undertaking joint economic endeavours and serving the cause of economic integration between Arab countries. Among these ventures are: the Industrial Free Zone Corporation, the Jordan-Syrian Industry Company, the Jordan-Syrian Land Transport Company and Jordao-Syrian Maritime Company. In 1985, Jordan supplied south-eastern parts of Syria with electricity in implementation of an agreement signed by the two countries in 1976. The two countries also signed an agreement in 1987 for the establishment of Al Wahdah Dam on the Yarmouk River to harness water for irrigating 35,000 dunums of land in the Jordan Valley and 5,000 dunums of land in the high regions. The dam project will generate electricity estimated at 18,800 megawatts annually, of which 75 per cent will benefit Syria, and the reservoir will supply nearly 50 million cubic metres of water to the Amman area. Jordan and Syria are linked by a number of other agreements designed to bring about coordination and increase cooperation in various fields. A joint committee has been holding meetings here on in the past two days, preparing for the higher committee meeting. The preparatory committee Wednesday discussed in detail the Jordan-Syria Industry Company and its affiliates. It also discussed Syrian-Jordanian cooperation in oil and gas and an exchange of expertise and studies in this field. The Jordanian side was led by Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Saqqaf and the Syrian side was led by Mohammad Sharif, governor of the Syrian Central Bank. Saqqaf and Sharif later briefed Minister of Industry and Trade Hamdi Tahhaa on the discussions.



Zaid Rifai



Mahmoud Al Zou'bi

4 more killed amid rising concern over Israeli tactics

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli forces shot dead a Palestinian in a prison protest Wednesday and three more died from army gunfire amid mounting controversy over Israel's use of brutal force to crush the 14-month-old Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. The death toll was the highest in one day for two months. It coincided with the start of a general strike by Palestinians to mark the beginning of the 15th month of the uprising. The deaths followed charges by the U.S. State Department that many of the 387 Palestinians killed had been shot unnecessarily. Former Israeli army chief Rafael Eitan supported the U.S. charges, saying in a radio interview: "I think the bloodshed was unnecessary." Sources said that police killed one prisoner and wounded at least 19 people when inmates protested Wednesday at Megiddo prison after authorities cancelled a family visit. The prison holds Palestinians detained for "anti-Israeli activities." Hundreds of relatives tried to raise a Palestinian flag, smashed soldiers' parked cars and blocked roads. Inside, prisoners battered down doors, stoned guard towers and tried to climb the prison fence, the sources said. Military police opened fire, killing a prisoner from the West Bank town of Tulikarm and wounding others, they said. Paramilitary police using clubs and tear-gas battled the relatives and arrested 40 people, sources said. On the West Bank, troops shot dead two Palestinian teenagers, Jamal Zakarneh, 17, was shot in the village of Kabatiya during a clash between troops and stone-throwers, military sources said. Troops came under attack when they raided nearby Silath Al Harthiya and soldiers shot dead Thamam Jaradat, 17, officials at Jenin hospital reported. Another Palestinian, shot in a protest Tuesday, died of his wounds at an Israeli clinic, hospital officials said. The shootings followed the publication of a U.S. government report undermining Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin's statements that the army only fired when "self-defence" made it essential. The revolt's underground leadership ordered a general strike for Wednesday and Thursday to mark the start of the uprising's 15th month and witnesses said the stoppage was being observed throughout the occupied territories. Troops in the Gaza Strip clamped curfews on five of the region's eight refugee camps. The U.S. State Department's 1988 human rights report said the Israeli army, "caught by surprise and untrained and inexperienced in riot control, responded in a manner which led to a substantial increase in human rights violations." Israel's foreign ministry rejected the charge, contending that the U.S. report did not take into consideration "the overall context of the events and the continuous provocation." Questioned in parliament Rabin refused to comment until he had read the report.

Security Council urges Iran, Iraq to talk peace

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The Security Council Wednesday called on Iran and Iraq to withdraw their troops to the border and release all prisoners of war, and it authorised U.N. peacekeepers to keep monitoring the Gulf war truce. The 15-member council voted unanimously to call upon the two states to "immediately implement Security Council resolution 598," passed in 1987, which demands a ceasefire, withdrawal, prisoner exchange and peace talks. The resolution passed by the council also extended through Sept. 30 the mandate of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) of 350 peacekeepers, who have monitored the fragile ceasefire that fell over the 1,180-kilometre battlefield last Aug. 20. Peace talks that opened in Geneva five days later immediately deadlocked over Iraq's demand that Iran consent to allow the dredging of the Shatt Al Arab waterway forming the southern border between their countries. Iran rejected any preconditions and insisted that the next step must be the troop withdrawal. Iran says Iraq still occupies about 1,000 square kilometres of Iranian territory. The foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq are expected to meet with Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar this week to discuss ways of breaking the deadlock and explore the possibility of a new round of direct peace talks. Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz arrived early this week, and his Iranian counterpart, Ali Akbar Velayati, is expected to arrive Thursday evening. Velayati said in Tehran Monday that direct peace talks would begin soon but did not specify a date. Perez de Cuellar's special representative to the peace talks, Swedish U.N. Ambassador Jan K. Eliasson, visited Baghdad and Tehran in late January. Eliasson's talks with senior Iranian and Iraqi officials produced no sign of progress on the major stumbling blocks in the peace talks — freedom of navigation in the Gulf or the Shatt Al Arab waterway; the exchange of 100,000 prisoners of war; or withdrawal of military forces to the border. There was progress on lesser, confidence-building measures, and Perez de Cuellar reported to the Security Council, that "I believe that it is still possible to reach with the two parties the common understanding" that would lead to a comprehensive peace settlement. Iraq released about 250 sick and injured prisoners of war in January, a gesture Iran has not yet reciprocated.



Tariq Aziz

Morocco, Algeria signal new era of cooperation

FEZ, Morocco (R) — King Hassan and President Chadli Benjedid of Algeria agreed Wednesday to build a gas pipeline across North Africa to Europe, symbolising a new era of cooperation between the former rivals. The accord was timed to mark the end of a three-day visit to Morocco by Benjedid which both sides said ends more than a decade of tension over the Western Sahara, where Algeria has backed Polisario guerrillas fighting Morocco for independence. They also agreed a joint government committee would meet next month to finalise other cooperation plans delegated to ministers after extensive talks by the heads of state. "The Moroccan press... in the past Morocco critic of Algeria has hailed the visit as historic, paving the way for wider regional cooperation ahead of a summit of all Maghreb states next week. A joint statement said the two leaders were convinced the meeting was "an important step towards the construction of great Arab Maghreb," — a sort of confederation expected to be agreed at the summit. It said the visit had been marked by optimism and understanding and both countries had agreed to work for closer bilateral cooperation and "to reactivate all treaties and conventions concluded between the two countries." The Moroccan opposition daily L'Opinion said in an editorial Wednesday both the Moroccan and Algerian people had paid a high price for the desert war in terms of money, wasted energy and material, and human lives. "It was time to put an end to this conflict by opting for a peaceful solution and honour-



King Hassan II



Chadli benjedid

countries and was seen as one of the factors behind Algeria's decision to reestablish diplomatic ties with Morocco last May. It will carry natural gas about 500 kilometres from the Hassi Rmel gas field in Algeria to the Moroccan frontier at Oujda, and then about 1,500 kilometres across Morocco to Tangier on the Straits of Gibraltar and then into Spain. Morocco will be able to tap gas for its own needs and make savings in an energy bill of almost \$40 million a year. Algeria, one of the world's largest natural gas producers, is keen to find more markets to lessen its dependence on income from oil. In 1988, 95 per cent of its foreign exchange earnings came from hydrocarbon exports.



An Afghan soldier stands guard at a Kabul provision store. Behind the troopers are women awaiting their turn for supplies in the shortage-plagued Afghan capital.

Safety fears snag Afghan relief airlift

ISLAMABAD (Agencies) — An emergency U.N. relief airlift to the battered and hungry Afghan capital of Kabul was stalled because the plane's crew was afraid to fly there, U.N. officials said Wednesday.

The chartered Egypt air plane, packed with 32 tons of emergency supplies, sat on the tarmac at Islamabad airport because the crew decided late Tuesday that security in the besieged Afghan capital was uncertain, one of the U.N. officials explained.

Rene Albeck, external relations officer with a U.N. assistance programme for returning Afghan war refugees, said the crew and airline pulled off the flight for security reasons.

The Boeing 707 was scheduled to take off Tuesday. Sadruddin Khan, head of the Refugee Assistance Programme, oversaw the loading of the plane.

"Now we are working on the possibility of having another airline do the job," Albeck said. "We have not dropped the idea of the airlift."

"There's no airlift that can take place today (Wednesday) but we are hoping for an airlift tomorrow," he said.

The supplies "are intended for the most vulnerable groups such as women, children and the elderly," he said.

In Moscow, the TASS news agency quoted the Afghan army high command as threatening a full attack if rebels tried to starve the capital into submission.

France said a decision to supply emergency aid should be delayed until it was clear whether the aid would promote peace or simply help the Soviet-backed government remain in power.

Washington said badly needed food shipments to hungry Afghans could not get through unless all parties in the civil war, including rebel forces, agreed to cooperate.

The Boeing 707, carrying 32 tonnes of milk powder, protein, vegetable oil, medicines and blankets, arrived in Islamabad Monday night.

The Mujahideen rebels, who have been fighting the Soviet-backed government in Kabul for the past 10 years, agreed not to attack U.N. flights into the Afghan capital, in exchange for a promise that U.N. convoys would bring supplies into guerrilla-held regions, officials in Geneva and New York said last week.

"We have been all the time of the opinion, with the messages that we got, that it should be safe to fly into Kabul," Albeck said.

U.N. teams, monitoring an accord that provided for the withdrawal of more than 100,000 Soviet soldiers from Afghanistan by Feb. 15, have made regular trips between Islamabad and

Kabul.

About the time the airlift was scheduled to take off Tuesday morning, a DC-9 left Islamabad for Kabul with a U.N. monitoring team on board, airport tower officials said. It returned to Pakistan later Tuesday.

Shape of things

"We can see these planes take off and return safely," Albeck said.

Several airlifts to Kabul are scheduled over the next week, but Albeck said the success of the first flight will decide whether these plans go ahead.

As the withdrawal deadline approaches, speculation is rising that the Kabul government, left on its own, could not protect the capital from rebel onslaughts.

Hundreds of Soviet soldiers were still guarding the Kabul airport to safeguard the emergency airlift to supplies, Soviet officials said.

Kabul airport has frequently been attacked by the Mujahideen during their nine year war against the Afghan government and their Soviet backers, who used it as a base for warplanes and helicopters.

With just one week to go before the last Soviet troops are due to leave Afghanistan, TASS said rebels were again attacking food and fuel convoys travelling to Kabul along the Salang Highway.

Arab panel invites Lebanon clergy for meeting in Kuwait

BEIRUT (AP) — An Arab League committee entrusted with finding a settlement of the constitutional crisis in Lebanon Wednesday formally invited the country's spiritual leaders to a meeting in Kuwait Feb. 20.

Grand Mufti Hassan Khaled, the Sunni Muslim leader, the Shi'ite Muslims' spiritual leader, Sheikh Mohammad Mehdi Shamseddin, and Sheikh Mohammad Abu Shakra of the Druze community received their invitations Wednesday, aides said.

Kuwait's ambassador to Syria, Ahmad Al Jassem, drove from Damascus to Beirut earlier in the day to deliver the invitations.

He was expected to meet later

with the Maroniteatholic patriarch, Nasrallah Sfeir, at his seat in Bkirki, in the Christian heartland north of Beirut to hand him the invitation.

But the rightist voice of Lebanon radio station cited an unnamed Christian source as saying Sfeir would assist an aide to represent him the Kuwait talks. It did not say why the patriarch would not go himself.

The six-member committee, headed by Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikhbah Al Jaber Al Sabah, was set up in Tunis last month during an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers.

They are trying to end a five-

month political crisis that is threatening Lebanon with formal partition after the emergence of rival civilian and military cabinets.

French emissary Jean-Francois Deniau, who concluded a four-day visit to Beirut Wednesday, told reporters that he believed the Arab committee could "help in settling the pending questions, but the overall solution to the crisis should come from the Lebanese themselves."

"The Lebanese should depend on themselves to find the proper solutions to their problems. It is essential to elect a president as soon as possible to prevent partition," he said.

Velayati says Iraq and Britain should cooperate to free hostage

LONDON (Agencies) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said that Britain and Iran should try to secure the release of hostages in Lebanon.

"All of us should try for the release of each other's hostages, irrespective of nationality," he said after an hour-long meeting with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe Tuesday.

But the Foreign Office said Velayati's statement renewed British urges to help free Britons held in Tehran and Lebanon.

He said he had nothing new to report, said a Foreign Office spokesman, who by custom was not identified.

Velayati told reporters the hostages were not specifically discussed but he noted that Britain and Iran had already asked each other for help in securing the release of their respective hostages.

Howe pressed Velayati to use

his influence to secure freedom for British hostages believed held by pro-Iranian extremist groups in Beirut, the foreign office spokesman said.

But Velayati had no new information, British captives Terry Wait the archbishop of Canterbury special envoy, television journalist John McCarthy, and Belfast teacher Brian Keenan, who has dual Irish nationality, the spokesman said. They are among 15 Western hostages in Beirut, including nine Americans.

Iran had previously asked for British help in tracing four Iranians who disappeared in Lebanon some years ago.

The Foreign Office spokesman said he reiterated British concern over businessman Roger Cooper, held in Tehran for more than three years without trial charges of spying. The Iranian interior minister has said

that Cooper will be punished under Islamic law.

Another Briton jailed in Tehran, Nicholas Nicola, was released last month after Britain reopened its embassy in Iran. Britain has withdrawn all its diplomats 18 months earlier in a dispute which began after British police arrested an Iranian diplomat on shoplifting charges.

The talks also covered developments in Afghanistan and Lebanon and the prospect of improved trade contacts between Britain and Iran, the spokesman said.

About 60 Iranian demonstrators gathered near the Foreign Office to protest against Velayati's visit, some carrying slogans attacking Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini.

Police reported no trouble and said the demonstrators later dispersed quietly.

Khomeini grants amnesty for dissident prisoners

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini has agreed to an amnesty for political prisoners, Tehran Radio said Wednesday.

The radio quoted Khomeini as urging the families of those released to keep them out of further troubles, indicating that the measure applied mainly to young members of left-wing opposition parties, called grouplets in Iran.

It said 900 prisoners would be excluded from the amnesty, which marks the 10th anniversary of Khomeini's revolution. The most recent official figure for political prisoners in Iran, made public a year ago, put their number at about 9,000.

The measure was proposed by

Intelligence (Internal Security) Minister Mohammad Mohammadi Juyshahri, who said armed opposition groups no longer posed a threat to the country.

"The radio, monitored in Cyprus, did not give the terms of the amnesty or the number of prisoners, but it said that the measure was not of repentance, a condition previously observed in pardoning individual political prisoners."

"I hope the respected families of grouplet prisoners will advise their children not to take actions which would cause inconvenience to themselves and their relatives gain," Khomeini said in reply to Juyshahri.

He also said officials should treat the amnestied prisoners kindly and find jobs for them.

The London-based Amnesty International and other human rights organisations have accused Iran of executing more than a thousand political prisoners, including women and Muslim clergymen, over the past six months.

An Iranian official said a year ago there were 9,000 political prisoners in Iranian jails. Opposition groups put the number in tens of thousands.

Hundreds of non-political prisoners have been freed or had their sentences reduced this month to mark the 10th anniversary of the revolution.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq recalls Popular Army from front

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq is to pull its para-military "Popular Army" back from the Gulf war front by the end of next month, the weekly Alif-ba reported Wednesday. It quoted the army's commander, Taha Yassin Ramadan, as saying: "We will complete the withdrawal of all Popular Army units, which exceed 100, from the warfront by the end of March." He did not say how many men would be withdrawn, but official figures had put at around 100,000 the number of Popular Army men deployed at the front. The army has a total of 650,000 recruits. News of the withdrawal followed an earlier decision to stop accepting new recruits for the para-military force after Iraq's eight-year-long war with Iran ended with a ceasefire last August.

Anderson's sister visits Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — The sister of U.S. hostage Terry Anderson, held in Lebanon for nearly four years, has arrived in Damascus in a fresh effort to seek his release. Peggy Say, told reporters Tuesday on arrival that she was ready to meet anyone and go anywhere to help secure her journalist brother's release. Syria, the main foreign power-broker in Lebanon, has helped gain the release of some hostages there, and its leaders have repeatedly said they were working hard to free all captives. Anderson, Middle East Bureau chief of the AP, was kidnapped in the Lebanese capital March 16, 1985. Sixteen other Westerners are believed held in Lebanon. Say said she had no appointments with Syrian officials as yet. She did not say whether she would meet Lebanese officials but said she wanted to send a message of gratitude to Sheikh Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah, mentor of the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) militia, believed to be holding the hostages.

Hammadi trial to hear more witnesses

FRANKFURT (R) — The judge in the trial of Lebanese hijacker Mohammad Ali Hammadi said Wednesday he would call more witnesses of the seizure of a U.S. airliner, and was immediately criticised for prolonging the hearing. Judge Heiner Mueckenberger told the court trying Hammadi for air piracy and murder that as the identity of some 10 Greek passengers aboard the June 1985 flight had now been established he would summon them, as witnesses as a precautionary measure. The attorney representing the parents of a U.S. navy diver shot dead on board the hijacked TWA airliner, criticised the prolonging of the trial, which began last July and is scheduled to last until April at least. "I wonder whether our duty to seek clarification demands that each of the passengers be cross-examined," lawyer Rainer Haimm told the court. More than 30 of the 153 passengers and crew have testified. Several have refused to appear. Hammadi has admitted hijacking but denies murder, saying his accomplice who is still at large was the killer. The defendant must prove he played no part in the murder to avoid the maximum sentence of life imprisonment.

13 hurt in Lebanon clash

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanese soldiers and rightist militiamen Tuesday fought with ski-sticks on the snow-blanketed mountains of north Lebanon. Military sources said 13 people were injured. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the clash broke out over ski-trail priority on the slopes of the winter resort town of Ouyoun El Siman in the Christian heartland 40 kilometres northeast of Beirut. An officer of the Lebanese Forces, the rightists' main militia, tried to jump the line for ski-lifts with his escort, despite shouted warnings that he should keep back, one source said. "When he refused to heed the warning, the quarrel erupted. Soldiers and militiamen hit each other with ski-sticks without using any firearms," the source said. It was the first such incident between units of the mostly Christian-officer Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces. But the source said the quarrel was "spontaneous with no political significance."

Beirut bomb wounds four

BEIRUT (R) — A bomb wounded four Lebanese civilians near a Syrian checkpoint in west Beirut late Tuesday, police said. Syrian soldiers manning the checkpoint in the Abu Chaker residential area escaped injury.

Evren to visit 3 Asian states

ANKARA (AP) — President Kenan Evren will make official visits to Pakistan, Malaysia and India this month, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday. The announcement said Evren will fly to Pakistan Feb. 16 and then proceed to Malaysia Feb. 19. The president's visit in India is scheduled for Feb. 22-26, it added.

Soviets to build station in Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — Soviet and Iraqi ministers laid the foundation stone for a \$700 million power station south of Baghdad, according to the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said. The 1,680-megawatt thermo station, to be Iraq's biggest, will be built by the Soviet firm Technoexport and will be fully operational by the mid-1990s. Iraq's Industry and Military Industrialisation Minister Hussein Kamel Hassan and Soviet Oil Industry Minister Vasily Dinkov laid the foundation stone in the Yousifiya area 40 kilometres south of Baghdad Tuesday. INA said Dinkov and Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi earlier reviewed the situation in the world oil market and recent contacts between Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC countries.

Prince Charles to visit Saudi Arabia

NICOSIA (R) — Prince Charles, heir to the British throne, will make a private visit to Saudi Arabia in March, a Saudi royal statement said. The statement, carried by the Saudi Press Agency Tuesday evening and received in Cyprus, said Prince Charles would visit Saudi Arabia for three days starting March 17 at the invitation of Crown Prince Abdullah. The agency did not say if Princess Diana would accompany her husband. The royal couple last visited the kingdom in November 1986. They were also invited by Crown Prince Abdullah who had to leave for medical treatment abroad at the last minute and were received by his brother, Defence Minister Prince Sultan.

Outcome of Shura gathering crucial for Afghan future

By Michael Batty
Reuters

ISLAMABAD — Afghan Mujahideen, beset by religious, political and tribal differences, are set to hold their most important meeting, one which they and their friends hope will determine the future of Afghanistan.

From the Afghan mountains, now deep in snow, where they have fought the government army and a big Soviet force close to completing its withdrawal after nine unsuccessful years of war, come the guerrilla commanders.

From Iran come representatives of the guerrillas of the minority Shiite sect of Islam based there.

From Europe and the United States come prominent Afghans, including former

ministers, who have long lived in exile.

From Peshawar, the north-western Pakistan city crammed with refugees from a war in which a million people may have been killed, come the leaders of the best known Afghan political groups, an alliance from the majority Sunni sect of Islam.

And from the capital, Kabul, the Mujahideen hope, will come "good Muslims" — people connected with, but not prominent in the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA), a group the rebels reject as having no role in a future government.

The tribes of Afghanistan, rarely amicable, will all be there when more than 500 delegates sit down at the consultative council, or Shura, in Rawalpindi near Islamabad

Friday for three days of talks designed to produce an interim government.

"The Shura is the definitive event for the future," a Western diplomat said, "therefore the stakes are very high and the tensions are very high."

"The have to find a minimally acceptable solution, minimally threatening to each one."

NEWS ANALYSIS

"If they can find an interim government which people can support, it will reduce the possibility of deep divisions in the alliance which could ultimately lead to civil war."

A successful Shura, experts say, would provide a credible negotiating partner in any efforts to persuade the Kabul

government of President Najibullah, who has vowed not to surrender, to hand over power.

It should help encourage Afghan soldiers to desert and weaken Kabul's apparent resolve.

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, in an interview with Reuters Monday, said Afghanistan's future depended on the Shura's success in producing a credible interim government and she backed the Mujahideen exclusion of the PDPA.

It was up to them to decide who should attend, he said. "It's their country. They have fought the war. They have given their lives in this struggle."

Rift within ranks

But it is going to be far from

easy. The Shura has already been postponed once because the Iran-based Shiites threatened to boycott it unless they were given double the 60 seats offered by the seven-party Sunni alliance based in Peshawar.

Only Monday did the Shiites agree to take 80 seats and attend.

To complicate matters, four of the Peshawar seven say they are determined that the Shura approve an interim government under fundamentalist Ahmad Shah set up last year.

The three more moderate Peshawar parties say they are equally determined that the Ahmad Shah government be replaced by a broader-based and more moderate group.

There is a real possibility that if it comes down to the wire, the moderates could walk

out," said a Western expert on Afghanistan.

But then, no one can be sure of what will happen when the Shura meets.

Experts say a traditional Afghan meeting is designed to bring together people of stature and although each of the seven Peshawar groups has selected 60 delegates, none can be sure its people will follow the party line.

"People traditionally represent their tribes and their regions, but they also speak for themselves and usually a consensus emerges around good ideas well represented," said one expert who asked not to be identified.

"Whether that will be the way it will work at the Shura, nobody knows," he said. "But a lot of Afghanistan's friends are hoping so."

DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773117-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
16:15 Local programme
17:30 Programme on Jordan
18:00 News for the Deaf
18:15 Local programme
18:30 "Alph"
19:15 Health programme
19:40 Programme review
20:20 News in Arabic
20:30 Local news
21:30 Programme review
21:40 News in Arabic
22:30 News summary in Arabic
22:40 Film (cont'd.)

PROGRAMME TWO

19:00 La Baby Sister
19:10 A variety programme
19:15 News in French
19:20 La Vie En France
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:35 Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:10 Beauty and the Beast
21:10 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Rear Window"

PRAYER TIMES

05:02 Fajr
06:21 (Sunrise) Duha

CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.
Terrence Church Tel. 623366.
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625328.
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611295.
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with a chance for scattered rain in the southern region of the country. Winds will be

southeasterly becoming southwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Min./max. temp.

Amman 21/14
Aqaba 10/21
Deserts 1/16
Jordan Valley 9/23

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 15, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 18 per cent, Aqaba 27 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Ibrahim Abu Hamid 677436
Dr. Yahya Abdul Rahim 730074
Dr. Ahmed Othman 785384
Dr. Mahmoud Al Awad 741391
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 638672
Al Salam pharmacy 644945
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
IBRD
Dr. Mahmoud Khalil (-)

Al Sharaf pharmacy (962)38

ZARQA:

Dr. Mufeed Damra (-)
Khalil pharmacy 6417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 61111
Civil Defence immediate 30341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Fire Brigade 192, 62111/137777
Blood Bank 609093
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 639091
Public Security Department 656001
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 681776
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 12
Overseas Calls 17
Central Amman Telephones 623101
Abdali Telephone Repair 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 06-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 06-52000

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/322
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644291/6
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn 644291/6
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malika, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 664171/4
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 843845
Al-Musader Hospital 667270
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/77
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajireen 77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafi 775112/6
Army, Marika 891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)991071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD:

Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

MARKET PRICES

Uppertower price in fils per kg.

Apples 500 / 450
Bananas 350 / 300
Bananas (Makman) 300 / 250
Beans 650 / 550
Broad beans 800 / 700
Cabbage 180 / 140
Carrots 240 / 200
Cauliflower 230 / 180
Cucumbers 650 / 550
Dates 600 / 500
Eggplant (Makman) 230 / 180
Garlic 250 / 200
Grapefruit 220 / 180
Lemon 230 / 200
Lettuce (per oed) 150 / 100
Marrow (large) 420 / 360
Marrow (small) 540 / 480
Orange (Shamouti) 440 / 380
Orange (local) 270 / 200
Onion (dry) 220 / 160
Onion (green) 300 / 240
Onion (hot) 700 / 600
Pepper (sweet) 550 / 450
Potato 240 / 200
Spinach 150 / 100
Mandarin 370 / 300
Tomatoes 200 / 140

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEE ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Aqaba (RJ)
09:10 Damascus (RJ)
09:15 Jeddah (RJ)
09:30 Cairo (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:55 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:00 Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Calcutta (RJ)
10:15 Laraca (RJ)
10:30 Athens (RJ)
10:30 New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
10:30 Athens (RJ)
10:30 London, Geneva (RJ)
10:30 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
10:30 Bangkok (RJ)
10:30 Tripoli (RJ)
10:45 Rome (RJ)
09:20 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:10 Kuwait (TU)
12:15 Baghdad (IA)
13:00 Bahrain (GP)
13:00 Kuwait (KU)
13:30 Dhahran (RJ)
13:30 Riyadh (SV)
13:30 Bucharest (RO)
13:30 Cairo (MS)
13:30 Baghdad (AF)
13:30 Samra (LH)

18:55 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KL)
19:15 Frankfurt (LH)
20:00 Zurich, Laraca (SR)
06:25 London, Cairo (BA)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:55 Aqaba (RJ)
10:40 Tripoli (RJ)
10:45

Queen Noor visits JUST



AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Wednesday visited Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) where she toured the new facilities at the university and was briefed on the accomplishments of the different colleges there.

Queen Noor agreed to sponsor a number of awarding students at the university.

The president of JUST, Kamel Ajlouni, announced that the university will establish a "Queen Noor Architecture Award" which will be presented to the best architecture graduate every year.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

PRINCE MOHAMMAD CONDOLES: His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad has delegated the director of his office to convey his condolences to Al Baqa' family on the death of late Hadba' Yusuf Al Kawatir Al Baqa' in. (Petra)

CABINET ENDORSES PACT: The Cabinet has endorsed the exchange of the minutes of understanding with the West German government. The minutes provide for supplying DM 1.3 million in aid to finance Jordan Valley Authority projects. (Petra)

NEW MAYORS APPOINTED: The Cabinet Wednesday endorsed the appointment of Naser Isma'il Qasem as mayor of Hofa in the Irbid Governorate, and Sa'id Mohammad Qndah as mayor of Ain Jannat in Ajloun district. (Petra)

ODEH, QASEM TO ATTEND RABAT TALKS: Finance and Customs Minister Hanna Odeh and Central Bank Governor Hussein Al-Qasem will represent Jordan to the four-day 13th annual meeting of the Council of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank which will convene in Rabat on Feb. 20. The conferees will discuss the bank's plans for 1989. (Petra)

MEDICAL COUNCIL EXAMINATION: Health Minister Dr. Zubair Malhas Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Jordan Medical Council (JMC). It was agreed, during the meeting, to hold the JMC examination twice a year. (Petra)

HAI HASSAN RECEIVES IRAQI AIDE: Transport and Telecommunications Minister Khaled Al Hai Hassan Wednesday discussed with Iraqi Minister of Transport and Telecommunications Undersecretary Khaled Al Samarra'i means for developing transport between the two countries. (Petra)

ENCOURAGING INVESTMENT: Industry and Trade Minister Hamdi Al Tabbaa Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Investment Encouragement Committee. The committee discussed means to encourage investment in Jordan. (Petra)

ASSAD RECEIVES QATARI ENVOY: Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad Wednesday received Qatari Ambassador in Amman, Sheikh Mubarak Ibn Naser Al Kuwari. During the meeting, they discussed means to bolster cooperation, scientific research, and increasing the number of Jordanian students pursuing studies in Qatar. (Petra)

HMOUND TO ATTEND GENEVA TALKS: Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Marwan Al Hmound will lead the Jordanian delegation to the United Nations Conference on Environment which is scheduled to begin in Switzerland on March 20. The conference will discuss international cooperation dealing with the environment. (Petra)

NHF HONOURS LATTA: The Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Wednesday honoured David Latta, the British Council's representative in Amman on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in the country which lasted more than four years. NHF Director General In'am Al Mufri delivered a speech expressing the foundation's appreciation for the British Council's assistance to the NHF's programmes, especially the Jubilee School and paid tribute to Mrs. Latta for her useful proposals to promote the Jerash Festival of Art and Culture. (Petra)

SKI TEAM FOR THE HANDICAPPED: In accordance with the directives of Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ibn Zaid, a ski team comprising mentally retarded students was formed at Nazek Al Hariri Special Training Centre for the Handicapped. (Petra)

12 YEARS AGO TODAY: Today, Feb. 9, 1989, marks the 12th anniversary of the death of the late Queen Alia Al Hussein. The late Queen died as the result of an airplane accident while fulfilling a duty call in service of the Jordanian people. She is the mother of Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein and His Royal Highness Prince Ali bin Al Hussein.

University to organise seminar on pollution

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The University of Jordan will organise a seminar on the pollution of the environment with chemical substances which will open here on Feb. 26.

A university spokesman said that the seminar will discuss subjects related to those substances that could cause cancer and contaminate foodstuffs, such as pesticides, and substances which poison the atmosphere and contaminate water.

Also to be discussed is the question of environment pollution by factory waste and factory

and car fumes, the spokesman noted.

He said that the seminar, which will be organised in cooperation with the Goethe Institute, aims to spread awareness among the members of the public about the pollution and means of avoiding its dangers.

Taking part in the three-day seminar will be a group of specialists in the pollution field from West Germany and the University of Jordan, as well as specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Royal Scientific Society.

WHAT'S GOING ON

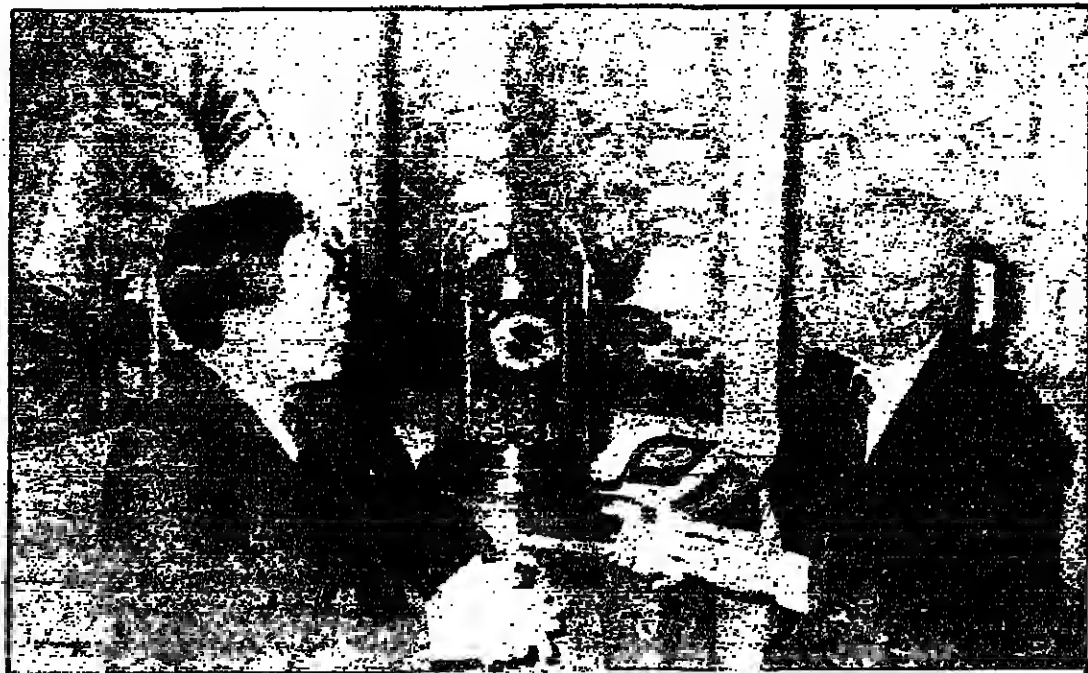
The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- * The Arab book exhibition that includes books on different topics at Yarmouk University.
- * An exhibition of Korean photos, books and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Paul and Emanuel Girajorian at Abdul Humud Shuman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.
- * An exhibition of lithographies by French artist Jean-Paul Chabannes at the French Cultural Centre.
- * The Arab Contemporary Artists exhibition at Al Wasiti Gallery.

FILMS

- * A film entitled "The Big Easy" which is shown as part of the American Centre's 1989 film festival at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- * A Spanish film entitled "Tasio" which is shown as part of the European Film Week at the Royal Cultural Centre — Friday 8:00 p.m.
- * A feature film entitled "On Golden Pond" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Lawzi receives outgoing Chinese envoy

Upper House of Parliament Speaker Ahmad Lawzi Wednesday received China's Ambassador in Amman Zhang Zhen at the end of his tour of duty. During the meeting, Lawzi praised the

ambassador's efforts to develop Jordanian-Chinese relations. The talks dealt with cooperation particularly in the field of parliamentary affairs. (Petra photo)

Expatriates to take most seats at projected private university

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordanian expatriates will be given the lion's share in the number of seats at the projected private university which is to be established within the Greater Amman region, according to Dr. Seif Al Wadi Al Rumeihi, the general coordinator for the new university.

Nearly 90 per cent of the seats will be assigned for children of Jordanian expatriates, a move that will ensure an inflow of between JD 300 to JD 500 million in foreign currency into Jordan on an annual basis, Rumeihi said in a statement published in Sawt Al Shaab daily.

The university's initial capital is expected to be JD 10 million of

which the expatriates are expected to provide JD 5 million, Rumeihi noted.

But, he said, the expatriates have only provided JD 2.3 million so far — and these came from those expatriates living and working in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia.

As soon as the expatriates pay up their expected share the door will be open for registration, and this could take place by the end of the coming month, Rumeihi noted.

He pointed out that the broad lines for the university's programmes and the essential infrastructure for the new project have already been laid and study could

start by January 1990.

He said that though the university will be located within the Amman region, it could have branches in Zarqa, Irbid and Mafraq.

Rumeihi noted that the idea of a private university was endorsed by the Jordanian expatriates conferences held in Amman over the past years.

Registration in the new university, he said, would be in accordance with regulations set by the Ministries of Education and Higher Education but the private university will have to organise entrance examinations for its students.

500 Palestinians killed by Israelis since start of uprising, report says

AMMAN (Petra) — Nearly 500 Palestinians were killed and 1,350 others injured since the start of the uprising in the occupied Arab territories, according to a report released Wednesday by the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs.

The report said that 285 Palestinians have been detained under the occupation laws in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and the Israeli courts issued prison sentences to 156 others — ranging between three to six months

— during the past month.

January also witnessed the expulsion of 15 Palestinians and the demolition of 46 Arab homes in the occupied lands, the report added.

The report, which coincided with the start of the uprising's 15th month, said that the Israeli authorities have maintained a policy of confiscating Arab lands and building Jewish settlements.

It said that a total of 3,297 dunums of land in four West Bank villages were seized and

Israeli forces uprooted 17,000 olive trees in five other villages in the area.

Furthermore, the Israeli authorities have continued to impose heavy taxes on merchants, confiscated identity cards and blocked entrances to towns and villages, the report noted.

It said that curfews are constantly being imposed on towns and refugee camps in West Bank and Gaza Strip areas, and people in many areas are forbidden to travel.

Exports increase 27.5% in first 10 months of '88 compared to '87

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan exported national products worth JD 248 million in the first 10 months of 1988 thus registering 27.5 per cent increase over those of the same period of 1987, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Department of Statistics Wednesday.

But the bulletin added that the amounts of reexported products in the same period declined by 45.3 per cent over figures given in the first 10 months of 1987 largely because in 1987 an aircraft owned by Royal Jordanian, the national airline, was reexported.

The bulletin said that the total amounts of reexported goods in the first 10 months of 1988 amounted to JD 30.9 million against JD 56.5 million in the same period of the previous year.

The report also revealed that Jordan's total imports of foreign commodities between January and October 1988 amounted to JD 787.1 million against JD 704.8 million in the previous year thus registering an increase of 11.7 per cent.

The bulletin said Jordan exported JD 31.7 million worth of national products to various

countries during October 1988, compared with JD 25.5 million in the same month of 1987, thus registering an increase of 24.3 per cent.

It said that reexported products in the same month of 1988 dropped by 41.9 per cent in comparison with those reexported in October 1987.

But the bulletin pointed out that Jordan's imports of foreign products during October 1988 amounted to JD 83.9 million compared to JD 91.2 million in the same month of 1987, a decline of nearly eight per cent.

Prime Ministry instructs departments to confine official travel to RJ

AMMAN (Petra) — A communique issued by the Prime Ministry Wednesday instructed all government departments to arrange for officials travelling abroad on official business to fly Royal Jordanian (RJ).

The communique referred to earlier official statements to the effect and said that all employees of government departments, public institutions, municipalities and companies in which the government participates as well as specialists who are invited here on business at government expense should travel on RJ flights.

It said that purchases by government departments and public institutions should also be shipped on board RJ aircraft.

It said that the measures are being taken in view of the need to support Jordanian national institutions and to avoid payment of foreign currency to foreign companies.

The communique said also that all public institutions and companies in which the treasury participates and foreign companies,

which draw up contracts with the government to carry out projects, should arrange for their personnel and their cargo to fly via RJ, and this should be explicitly stated in contracts drawn up between the public sector and the other parties.

The communique listed the instructions as follows:

1- Government employees and foreign experts travelling at the government's expense, and purchases associated with public sector departments should be carried on board RJ.

Violators of the law will have to bear the cost of tickets and the shipment fares. Other airlines could be accepted for travel if sources other than the treasury or public organisations are footing the bill, and when these sources insist on a special arrangement

for particular reasons. Other airlines could be accepted for travel or shipment if arrangements are done in this matter by RJ, either because no seats are available on board RJ planes or if travel is done to destinations not serviced by the national airline company.

2- Royal Jordanian should arrange for officials to travel on the shortest possible routes and for the least possible cost to reduce expenses.

RJ should arrange for officials to travel on other airlines only when RJ has no flights to the required destination, or if the dates between the start and end of the official trip exceeds 48 hours.

RJ should ensure the shipment of purchases for public sector departments on board its planes or other airlines if need be and for the lowest possible cost.

Should RJ fail to abide by these regulations it would be requested to pay to the treasury the additional cost incurred. The Ministry of Finance is to take charge of settling disputes.

Spanish envoy praises Jordan's efforts to promote Mideast peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Spain highly appreciates the role played by Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein in promoting the peace process in the Middle East, Spanish Ambassador to Jordan Ramon Armengod said Wednesday.

The Spanish kingdom supports Jordan's efforts, which it considers as one of the most significant elements that helped to bring the Palestine question to the top of priorities for the international community, the ambassador said in an exclusive interview with the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Armengod said King Hussein has displayed a great deal of courage, wisdom and far-sightedness by severing links with the West Bank, "a move that was behind the significant developments."

"The move has enabled the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to attain its important achievements in the international

arena and won recognition for the Palestine state, thus opening the way for the Palestinian people to regain their legitimate rights," the ambassador noted.

On Spain's role in resolving the Middle East conflict, the ambassador said that his country supports an international conference for a comprehensive settlement that would ensure the rights of the Palestinian people.

The chances are good now for the conference, especially as the Palestine National Council has recognised UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, the ambassador noted.

He said that all parties to the conflict ought to seize this historic opportunity and settle the Middle East problem.

"Israel's rejection of peace bids and its resort to force to stifle the Palestinian people's aspirations for freedom can not achieve the aspired peace," the ambassador noted.

He said Israel ought to respond to the world's call for peace and the calls from the Israeli public for the achievement of that goal.

Armengod referred to Jordanian-Spanish relations and said that they were established under the King Abdullah's reign but was developed through the trade, cultural and economic agreements in 1971 and 1980.

Referring to a visit Saturday to Jordan by the foreign ministers of Spain, Greece and France, the ambassador said that the three ministers have been entrusted with the visit to pave the way for a greater European Community role in resolving the Middle East problem.

The three ministers, he said, will meet with officials and acquaint themselves with the Jordanian views on the issue before reporting to the European Community's foreign minister's meeting on Feb. 14.

UNESCO seminar discusses technology courses in schools

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day meeting underway in Amman to discuss matters related to the teaching of science and technology Wednesday reviewed working papers dealing with technology courses in the primary and secondary school stages.

The papers cited as examples methods and courses in Egyptian schools, and also tackled the benefits of teaching science in schools for the national economy.

The participants visited Sukinah School for Girls in Amman and watched teachers giving lessons in scientific subjects. They were also briefed on Jordan's experiment in teaching computer courses to students and the use of computers in laboratories.

They visited a Ministry of

Education unit which produces simple laboratory equipment to be used in schools.

The meeting, which opened

here Monday, was organised by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) regional office.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION Tender Announcement

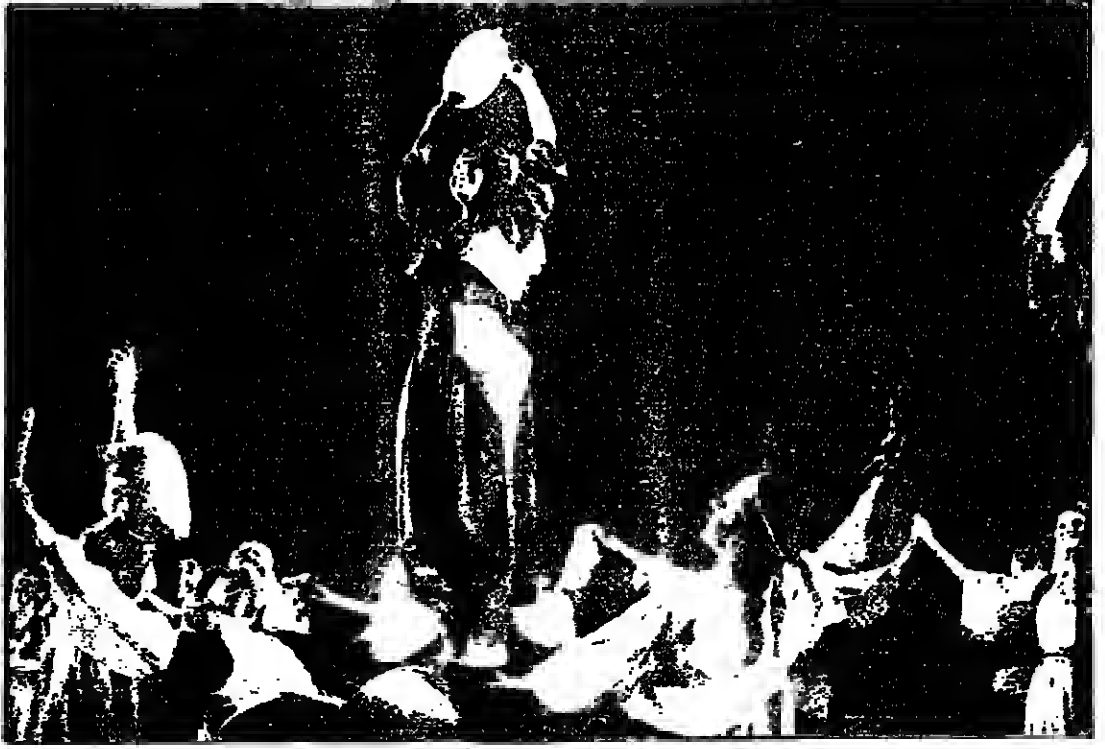
The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the Projects and Buildings Directorate, Ministry of Education from Feb. 11, 1989 with the following conditions:

- The Seventh Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Description of Tender
- Tender No. 5/D/89
- Construction of school buildings in Al Zoahrah Area 4300 sq.m.
- Last date of purchasing copies of tender documents is 21.3.1989.
- Award for any contractor shall be based on the allowable ceiling of commitment and number of projects as indicated in the government works byelaws and classification regulations.
- Last date for submitting financial offers is 28.3.1989 at 12 00 noon at the Ministry of Education.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION TENDER ANNOUNCEMENT

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the Seventh and Sixth Education Project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the Projects and Buildings Directorate, Ministry of Education from Feb. 11, 1989 with the following conditions:

- The Sixth Education Project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- Description of Tender
- Tender No. 1/D/89
- Construction of school buildings in Al Quiesmah Area (4860) sq.m.
- Tender No. 2/D/89
- Construction of school buildings in Sports City and Marka Area (7300) sq.m.
- Tender No. 3/D/89
- Construction of school buildings in Jina'a and Amir Talal Area (8570) sq.m.
- Tender No. 4/D/89
- Construction of school buildings in Al Quesmah Area (3890) sq.m.
- Last date for purchasing copies of tender documents is March 21, 1989.
- Award for any contractor shall be based on the allowable ceiling of commitment and number of projects as indicated in the government works byelaws and classification regulations.
- Last date for submitting financial offers is March 28, 1989 at 12 00 noon at the Ministry of Education.



Egyptian national folk troupe performs during 1988 Jerash Festival

19 countries to take part in 1989 Jerash Festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 1989 Jerash Festival for Culture and Arts promises to be one of the most exciting and entertaining ever, according to its Higher National Committee which is chaired by Her Majesty Queen Noor.

The two-week event will be held from July 5 to July 20. This year's festivities, which will feature performers from 19 countries, will flow throughout the ancient city's Greco-Roman theatres.

Among the troupes gracing the 1989 agenda will be the 66 member Leningrad State Ballet Company, making its Jerash debut. The Ballet de Nord will also perform, thus offering the audience a chance to appreciate the flavour of both East and West in this classical art form.

Sweden's contribution will be from Linköping University. Its Male Voice Choir will present a varied repertoire to appeal to all tastes.

The United States will send two companies this year. "Up with People," which made such a hit with audience in 1984, has

been asked to return by popular acclaim. Additionally, the "Dimensions," a modern dance company, will present both traditional African dances and American contemporary choreography.

Performing groups will also come from the United Kingdom, Japan, Spain, Cyprus, Austria and Indonesia.

Artists from Arab nations will

play an integral role in the 1989 festival. Troupes and individuals from Egypt, Tunisia, Sudan, the United Arab Emirates, Morocco and Lebanon will give performances indigenous to their countries.

Among the individual artists of note who will appear in Samira Said of Morocco, who will make her Jerash debut with two perform-

ances. Many local Jordanians will add their talents and expertise to assure the success of this year's festival. These will include poets, as well as members of children's theatres, folklore groups, and song and dance companies. There will also be art exhibitions and a number of dramatic presentations.

Jordan Times

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No more fast bucks

THE LEAST that one can say in describing the decision of the government to close down all money-exchange firms is simple: it is timely and much welcomed. Needless to say, the biggest gainers from this momentous decision is the Jordanian people, from all walks of life, who have been abused so much and for so long by greedy moneychangers. It is well known that the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar has been a victim of abuse of the first order and exploitation by forces hostile to Jordan's national interest and security and which seek to undermine faith and trust in the Kingdom's economy and its fiscal policies. It is obvious to all concerned that the Jordanian dinar is now undervalued to an exaggerated extent, and that moneychangers, whether deliberately or recklessly, unfortunately played a role in the course of events that led to such undervaluation.

It was, therefore, very timely that the government moved to counter the vicious assault on the dinar and help restore the degree of confidence that the Jordanian currency deserves. In the final analysis, the whole of Jordan, particularly the citizen with average income, is the beneficiary of this corrective course of action. For, now it is possible once again for any Jordanian citizen with honest intentions and lawful purposes to acquire foreign currency of any kind from any Jordanian bank at the official rate, which also happens to be the appropriate market price.

Let it be forgotten, it has dawned on Jordanians that enemies of Jordan, whether directly or acting through proxies, are waging premeditated attacks on Jordan, especially the Kingdom's economy and monetary standing. Fortunately, however, our country is strong in its purpose and dedicated in its mission and institutions to withstand all such attacks. The welcome and popular support extended to Wednesday's government decision to plug the remaining channel that was wily nifty instrumental in bleeding the country of hard currency are a resounding testimony of the wisdom and justification behind the move. Pretty soon, all those who wagered on the continuous decline of the dinar will discover that their reckless, devious prophecies of doomsday were way out of place and that it would have been wiser to have placed confidence in the strength of the dinar as prescribed by the banking system of the Kingdom rather than on moneychangers whose only motivation is perhaps to earn a fast buck at the expense of Jordan and its people.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

A STATEMENT of condemnation of Israel's atrocities in the occupied Arab territories by the U.S. State Department is the theme of an editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Wednesday. The fact that the U.S. State Department report condemns Israel's actions, said the paper, is an indication that Washington has begun to look objectively towards the developments in the Middle East. The report refers to Israeli troops' killing of Palestinians detained in Israeli jails, and the inhuman treatment of Arab citizens and other actions, the paper said. The report came at a time when Israel is trying to mar the reputation of the PLO, urging Washington to stop its dialogue with the organisation claiming that it had reverted to acts of terrorism, the paper noted. Washington's condemnation of Israel's atrocities is a source of satisfaction but it should be said that this American position has not yet reached the required minimum positive level, since condemnation is not enough, and can by no means serve as a deterrent for Israel, the paper added. It said that Washington ought now to reconsider its stand at the U.N. Security Council where it used to cast a veto against resolutions that would have condemned Israeli actions, allowing the Jewish state to escape sanctions for its crimes. Washington, the paper added, should also take speedy measures to convene an international conference to achieve peace in the Middle East.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on current Israeli attempts in Washington to force the United States to halt its dialogue with the PLO, claiming that the organisation continues to carry out terrorist actions. The writer, Abdul Rahim Omar, brings to mind an instance at the start of the Reagan administration when the president appointed George Shultz to serve as secretary of state, and says that Israel then launched an attack on Shultz accusing him of being biased towards the Arabs, thus forcing him to take open and hostile attitudes against the Arab Nation throughout the duration of the Reagan mandate in the White House. The writer says that world Zionism is now trying to play the same game by claiming that the PLO is a terrorist organisation and demanding that the U.S. stop its dialogue with it. The Israelis and the Zionist leaders hope that Washington would stop dealing with the PLO and so stop all negotiations that can lead to a settlement. Israel accuses the PLO of sending resistance men across the border with Lebanon to fight Israel and of inciting the Palestinians to maintain their uprising, something with which it is trying to convince the Americans as being a terrorist action, the writer adds. He says that through all these attempts Israel can by no means remove the picture from the minds of the world that it is the Jewish state which is committing all forms of terrorism against humanity.

Al Dostour daily wrote on the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab lands which is entering its 15th month, and which is growing in intensity every day. The paper said that the past 14 months witnessed a heroic struggle on the part of the freedom fighters who are trying to end Israel's occupation of Arab land, and witnessed huge sacrifices in the course of the struggle. No one had ever believed that the uprising will last thus far and continue unabated in view of Israel's military machinery and the Zionist atrocities exercised against the defenceless population, the paper noted. It said that the Palestinians have stood firm in the face of the inhuman practices and the criminal actions, their revolt has gained further momentum over the past months, the paper added. There is no doubt, the paper concluded, that the uprising will eventually achieve its objectives through more sacrifice and further determination and resolve.

A balance of interests

By Henry Kissinger

MOSCOW IN WINTER is a grim place. Ice rain and snow pelt down on pavements that seem never free of puddles even in this, the mildest winter on record. Despite perestroika the face of the city has not changed since my last visit two years ago, when it struck me as curiously unaltered in a decade's absence.

Today the stores are emptier than ever; the concept of service has not yet reached the fatherland of socialism. It remains a mystery how a people of such apparent lassitude expanded in just for centuries from a trackless plain surrounding Moscow to the Elbe in the West and to Vladivostok on the Pacific, a distance of 6,000 miles; how they achieved superpower status and kept the world in thrall for the better part of this century.

And yet it has been that way throughout history. Russia's peculiar backwardness has been noted by all observers, only to be belied by extraordinary achievements brought about in a sudden coalescence of energy, discipline and heroism. Russia, Communist or not, marches to its own drummer.

On the invitation of the Soviet government I visited Moscow with former French President Giscard d'Estaing and former Japanese Prime Minister Yasu Nakasone, co-authors with me of a report on East-West relations to be published in April by the Trilateral Commission.

While Russia had not changed visibly since my last visit, the psychological atmosphere had subtly altered. Two years ago the Soviet leadership radiated optimism and confidence, as if reform could be accomplished by changing a few procedures. This time the mood was far more sombre. Perhaps it was the impact of the tragedy in Armenia; perhaps a sudden sense that time for Gorbachev's reforms is running out. Gorbachev appeared less ebullient, more reflective — actually more thoughtful than on earlier occasions, and, as far as I was concerned, more attractive. Clearly perestroika has come up against the intractability of its own system. The question has boiled down to whether existing Soviet institutions are compatible with modernisation.

One reason is that a planned economy knows no accountability. The network of administrators has a vested interest in concluding non-aggression pacts among themselves. While theory postulates a central plan, reality

produces collusion among managers, planners and ministries, each with incentives to understate their capacity and inflate their achievements to protect themselves against blame for failure. Attempted administrative changes therefore tend to collapse beneath the dead weight of the entrenched status quo, while attempted political changes are muffled by an army of administrators and party officials.

The country clearly needs a new managerial class capable of getting a grip on the costs of production and of establishing realistic prices for goods. Since 25 per cent of the national budget goes to subsidise prices — an official estimate almost certainly too low — an objective yardstick for efficiency is absent. Because the marketplace does not allocate goods, they are allocated by administrative fiat or corruption or black markets.

Soviet leaders recognise that they must introduce a system of incentives and that they cannot remain a world power so long as their economy lags in international competition. But outside Gorbachev's own circle the Soviet system has no organised power group to support the needed reforms.

Gorbachev may tell horror stories of tens of thousands of pairs of Soviet shoes rotting in warehouses because they are of such poor quality nobody wants to buy them even in a country of chronic shortages. But the Communist Party as an institution cannot possibly have its heart in dismantling its own supervisory role. Nor is the governmental machinery likely to welcome a reduction of its administrative dominance.

The group most apt to understand the need for reform is the secret police, because its job requires it to take the measure of the outside world. But its enthusiasm will stop at the point where reform undermines civil discipline. And the military establishment will favour modernisation only so long as it does not have to pay for it by too sharp a reduction in the armed forces.

Gorbachev's courageous assaults on existing institutions, moreover, exact a psychological and political cost. Some weeks ago a young Russian visitor remarked to me plaintively about the public attacks on all Soviet leaders since Lenin: "This suggests that every Soviet citizen over 70 has wasted his life." The eruption of nationalistic passions

from the Baltic states to Central Asia shows that to some extent glasnost — democratisation — clashes with perestroika — economic reform.

No wonder that Gorbachev grows almost wistful when he contemplates his prospects. "At any rate," he told our delegation, "things will never be the same again in the Soviet Union." This would be a modest result for so Herculean a task.

The decisive changes in the economic management of the Soviet system await the consolidation of Gorbachev's power. And for him this year will be decisive.

"Political and economic change cannot be carried out under conditions of international tension; the Soviet leadership is under pressure to husband the time and energy it devotes to foreign affairs."

Gorbachev is in fact accumulating unprecedented personal power — in constitutional terms exceeding even that of Stalin.

Heretofore the highest Soviet rank has been that of general secretary of the Communist Party, which has dominated governmental, economic and military life through a system of parallel hierarchies. But Gorbachev has no intention of giving the major operational responsibility for reform to the group most in need of it. He therefore has endowed the heretofore ceremonial office of president with real, perhaps even dominant, powers.

The new Supreme Soviet, a body emerging from a complex electoral process dominated by Gorbachev, elects the president and will be in permanent session in order to discourage party coups. The president is guaranteed a five-year term and controls foreign and security policy. This domination finds expression in the personalities of Anatoly Dobrynin and Marshal Sergei F. Akhromeyev, who serve as foreign and defence advisers to Gorbachev as president while the heretofore all-powerful equivalent Communist Central Committee secretaries have had their powers reduced. When this process that Gorbachev is engineering is completed, the Soviet Union will be governed by a hybrid pluralistic system in which Gorbachev as president sits amidst a maze of huge bureaucratic structures and alone has access to all

of them. At that point — within a year — time will start running out for perestroika; Gorbachev will have to deliver on his economic reform programme.

Such political and economic change cannot be carried out under conditions of international tension; the Soviet leadership is under pressure to husband the time and energy it devotes to foreign affairs.

It is therefore unnecessary to debate the issue of whether there has been a basic conversion of the Soviet leadership or to gear one's policy entirely toward one particular Soviet leader. Domestic conditions impose a respite on

Soviet foreign policy, but in the end so does the international environment.

Russian and Soviet expansionism has been possible because on at least one of its fronts the Russian empire has always faced impotent neighbours, and Russian and Soviet foreign policy has promoted this state of affairs. But for the first time the major neighbouring countries — China, Japan, India, Western Europe — are growing faster than the Soviet bloc, as is the other superpower, the United States. Moreover, these countries, with the exception of India, are more or less allied in their determination to resist Soviet expansionism.

Gorbachev's first reaction has been to launch very skillful peace offensives to break up this tacit coalition. But the price he has to pay is the muting of traditional pressures the Soviet Union had put on its neighbours. If Soviet expansionism were to reappear, his considerable achievements in refurbishing the Soviet image would be at risk. What started as a tactical device may thus develop its own momentum.

The Soviet Union's Asian neighbours are immune to sentimental appeals. They will insist on a settlement of the issues of most concern to them.

Europe is more vulnerable. Its domestic politics lends itself to seduction by changes in the international climate; the division of Germany gives the Soviets a carrot for stimulating German

nationalism. Many recent Soviet moves can be interpreted as attempts to harness European economic assistance while reducing its military capacity with a subtle assault on NATO's cohesion. But in the end, unless Western leaders abdicate their responsibility, such a policy will either run into the sand or prove too dangerous.

Whatever shortsightedness European leaders committed in the pursuit of domestic politics, they will refuse to trade American protection for Soviet good will, especially if America conducts a coherent Atlantic policy. And a neutralised Germany — were it achievable — would present growing problems for the Soviet Union since Germany's unfulfilled aspirations are all in the East. Thus the Soviet Union — if it is realistic — is condemned by circumstances to seek a realistic accommodation, provided always that the West is able to give a concrete content to its concept of peace through a series of precise political arrangements.

Were foreign policy a science and not an art, this is what would happen. But it remains to be seen whether Americans can be brought to see foreign policy in terms of equilibrium rather than as a struggle between good and evil, or whether Russia can abandon its historic expansionism. Americans have always sought to punish the wicked, but also to redeem them by conversion. This is why former President Reagan went from belligerent anti-communism to the reiteration of the change of heart of the Soviet leadership as the principal assurance of a peaceful future. Such an approach neglects the realities of power, ambition and national interest.

On the Soviet side the obstacle to progress is exactly the opposite; it is not rejection of the role of power but an obsession with it. Russian history justifies a fear of foreign invasions. But so long as that fear can be assuaged only by the impotence of neighbouring states and the Soviets' political domination, peace will be at risk.

As for the Western Europeans, they need to face the fact that if they really want a political settlement, they must not tempt the Soviet Union to divide the Western Alliance.

Finally, the West needs to put arms control into a better perspective. What started as an understandable preoccupation with controlling weapons of mass destruction has turned into a cult

administered by a priesthood of esoteric technicians advancing arcane formulas leading to agreements which they rationalise to their parliaments on the astonishing ground that they will leave existing military capabilities unaffected. The review ordered by President Bush provides an opportunity to elaborate an overall design.

The imminent opening of conventional arms-control negotiations will in any event generate the imperative of a European political settlement. Any Soviet withdrawal that significantly reduces Soviet offensive capabilities and offers guarantees against re-entry must increase the political turmoil in Eastern Europe. Any partial American withdrawal, which will be the inevitable result of a significant Soviet retreat, will revolutionise the historic assumptions of the Western Alliance.

Thus, side by side with an unprecedented opportunity there is an unprecedented challenge to Western statesmanship.

(a) The Western Alliance must transform the existing numbers game of arms control into a political compact including a European political settlement.

(b) Western Europe must develop with American encouragement its own defence and political organisation. That is the only meaningful form of burden-sharing and the key to a European settlement.

(c) The U.S. must make clear that no scheme involving the complete withdrawal of American forces from Europe can be considered.

(d) The Soviet Union should reflect about the trap in which it now finds itself: it had tied its military security to regimes in Eastern Europe whose instabilities create their own momentum. Is it possible to separate political evolution from military security?

(e) Fifteen years ago attempts to establish global rules of conduct foundered over Soviet expansionism and American domestic divisions. Is it possible to resurrect such a dialogue in the new circumstances?

A new American president with a generous spirit and a Soviet leader who has shown a willingness to challenge historic preconceptions now face a challenge essentially at odds with the missionary bent of America and the expansionist tendency of Russia: to advance peace by balancing their national interests — Los Angeles Times.

Iran still looking for dominance

By Eric Hall
Reuter

DUBAI — Ten years of revolution and eight years of war have left Iran with an army and an arms industry capable of making it a dominant power again.

Military analysts said that as these two children of the revolution grow, the balance of power will tilt increasingly from Iraq to Iran, jeopardising the fragile peace imposed with the August 20 ceasefire in their eight-year Gulf war.

"A durable settlement relies on a balance of power, and that does not exist," said Shahram Chubin, an authority on the Gulf war from the Geneva Institute of International Affairs.

"Time favours Iraq in the short-term, but in the long-term it favours Iran," he added.

The late Shah of Iran, who fled his country's Islamic revolution in January 1979, created an elitist army, strongly reliant on his patronage, on U.S. military advisers and on the arms industry dominated by U.S. companies he built. The purge of army commanders and the rise of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards — the armed, ideological spearhead of the revolution — demoralised the regular army.

Military analysts Nikola Schahgaldian of the U.S. Rand Corporation estimated that desertions reached 60 per cent five months after the revolutionaries took power on February 11.

The break with the United States cut off Iran's arms industry from U.S. expertise and spares. Sophisticated U.S. planes lie mothballed for lack of parts.

But the professional army gained experience, restored discipline and won prestige in the hard-fought war with Iraq.

"A new, young, war-tested officer class appeared, usually from the lower and lower-middle classes, tied to leading clerics socially... (who) take their role in society seriously," said Schahgaldian.

The army's new officer corps has little central power and no tradition of coups, making it a powerful tool of the government, the analysts said.

The Revolutionary Guards expanded to become a 300,000-strong force with naval units manning fast Swedish patrol boats, air defence cadres and control of the national militia.

But the guards lost much of their earlier heroic standing by lack of battlefield success and an apparent readiness to sacrifice the lives of their troops.

Their status was further eroded when Tehran's leaders accused them of corruption and incompetence, analysts said.

The demands of war forced the arms industry to utilise available technology, produce more reliable weapon systems and develop an export industry.

Anoushiravan Ehteshami of Britain's Exeter University, said that at the time of the revolution Iran had four main arms factories. Since 1979 a further 240 plants and thousands of military repair shops have sprung up.

Defence Minister Mohammad Hossein Jalali said in October that arms production had risen threefold since the revolution. Total economic growth has been only around four per cent a year.

Experts attending an international airshow in Dubai last week said Iran was offering for sale abroad military radios, guns, grenades and mortars.

Chinese technicians have been the main source of foreign help, said Ehteshami. Iran has been able to build its own missiles and plans a locally-produced jet fighter.

Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, influential parliamentary speaker and acting armed forces commander-in-chief, has said "one of the war's blessings is the way our forces have acquired the construction technology and learned the use of different kinds of missiles."

Some analysts believed Iran has been licensed by China and North Korea to assemble its own MiG-19 fighter and is able increasingly to service its old U.S. aircraft.

They said it has agreements with China to produce artillery and West German help with submarine technology and production of a landing craft.

He didn't expect Jews to behave this way

By Joshua Brilliant

AZUN, Occupied West Bank — The sticks and stones which smashed into this Palestinian village on Friday were more an emotional assault than a physical one on the family of Ibrahim Hassan Ali Ahmad.

The hatred behind the missiles hit home hardest for Ahmad. One of his two wives is Jewish. His children are taught Jewish history, Jewish values, and ethnic tolerance. When the settlers from Ariel and Sha'arei Tikva, whose houses he helped build, and whom he felt closer to than just another neighbour, attacked his village, the first house they attacked was his.

I used to visit them," he said. "I talked about them so much to my son; what am I going to tell him if he asks whether these people are the ones who attacked my house? What am I going to say if my son wants to visit his friends Tami or Yehia? That now they are barbarians?"

They threw books in Ahmad's home include Yitzhak Levanon's Biblical Stories for Children and a picture encyclopedia he says he

keeps because it tells about the Jews' history. A family album displays smiling faces of his in-laws, Jews, from Petah Tikva.

The Friday night raid on his village was in reprisal for the stoning by Arabs of two cars earlier that night. One rock crashed through the window of an Ariel family's car, injuring a nine-year-old boy. Another dented a car driven by an elderly resident of Sha'arei Tikva. The attackers escaped but settlers — by their own estimates, several hundred of them — wreaked their vengeance on the village of Azun.

Wielding iron bars and burning sticks and stones they attacked Ahmad's home first. Ahmad was visiting his sister in Rafah at the time of the raid.

The 36-year-old labourer was bitter as he led this reporter to see his 83-year-old father, who had locked himself in his home when the settlers descended. Ahmad had heard stories about settler attacks elsewhere, but didn't believe them. He did not expect Jews "who cry over the destruction of the Second Temple" to behave this way.

Local accounts say that some settlers bearing flags shouted, "Get out of here. This is not your land."

"What are they talking about?" Ibrahim said angrily.

He opened a window and pointed to the villas in Sha'arei Tikva. "Who did the plastering job there? The floors? I did. My father guarded those houses. Some of those buildings rose on my back — and now they tell me to get out?"

His 4½-year-old son, Gharib, wets his pants when he sees soldiers. "I tell him not to be afraid. But what do I say to him now?"

When Ahmad met his Jewish wife M. (she asks not to be identified) 15 years ago she thought he was Jewish. When she found out otherwise, she was already deeply in love. They came together to this village east of Kafr Kassem, and married in an unofficial civil ceremony because she wouldn't convert to Islam. Ahmad clearly respects her Judaism, she said, pulling out a gold Magen David necklace. Some Arab husbands don't let their Jewish wives wear the symbol, but her husband bought her many, she said.

Living here had been good, M. continued. "I thought I had discovered America. It was quiet. I felt like a queen."

Her parents opposed the marriage at first but relented. Ahmad calls them Aba and Ima, and frequently travels to Petah Tikva to take care of his sick father-in-law. His paralysed mother-in-law is in hospital.

The attack changed things for the Ahmad family. M. said she heard Ahmad's mother cursing. Villagers now greet M. only dutifully, and she is afraid to go home alone at night.

She is afraid for the baby she is expecting in four months time, and told her husband she wanted to return to Petah Tikva. "I'm afraid I'll lose the baby," she said.

She is also worried about her baby's future. "What will become of him? How will he be treated? Maybe someone from Azun will kill him? He will be a real mcken," she said. Harem — what a pity — she added in Arabic — The Jerusalem Post.

Egyptians hope Arab League returns to Cairo

By Sara Ali Gammal
Reuter

CAIRO — Ghosts occupy the leather armchairs that were once the seats of power in the Arab World.

The Persian carpets and faded velvet curtains of the Arab League's headquarters building in Cairo look the same as in 1979 when the 22 league members suspended Egypt and broke relations with Cairo in protest at its separate peace treaty with Israel.

After a decade of silence the ghosts might soon be rubbing shoulders with the real world. For many Egyptians, a return by Egypt to the league should mean a return of the headquarters to Cairo from Tunis, where the secretariat has been based since 1979. But there are differing views on when this is likely to take place.

"The old, rich furniture is still in the same place it was in 10 years ago," an Egyptian official said. "The only missing thing is

the people who occupied it and met in it."

Though other Arab delegates left Cairo many Egyptian employees have remained at their desks.

About 300 Egyptians — down from 800 or more before 1979 — arrive each morning to keep Cairo's league records in order, write political reports and issue press bulletins.

The league's green flag with two olive branches and an unbroken chain flies alone, flanked by 22 bare flag poles, outside the offices on the site of a former British army barracks.

"This place was a symbol of British occupation. The barracks were torn down and the building went up... a symbol of freedom and Arab unity," another official said.

"It is all in working order... all we need now is an Arab summit," he added.

During the past 18 months most Arab states have resumed relations with Egypt. Only Syria, Libya and Lebanon have re-

mained outside the Arab rapprochement with Cairo.

Even Israel has said it would welcome Egypt's return to the league.

Israeli ambassador Shimon Shamir said: "The Arab boycott of Egypt in 1979 was a boycott of peace."

"So the return of Arab ambassadors to Cairo and improvement of relations while the Israeli embassy is here is, in an indirect way, an acceptance by the Arab World of the strategy of peace in Egypt."

"Israel can only welcome this... but we hope this will not be at the expense of peace or relations with Israel."

"Now it is only a matter of time for Egypt to get back into the league," said a Western diplomat. "I'd say sooner than later."

It would take an Arab summit, which many league members want Saudi Arabia to host this year, to reverse Egypt's suspension.

Though readmission would reopen the question whether the

league headquarters should move back to Cairo, some Arab diplomats see it as a distant issue.

"Egypt's continued suspension is a crisis. Let us get Egypt back into the league first to resolve this crisis and then deal with the headquarters later," one said.

The diplomats said Tunisia would probably not object to a move provided the decision was unanimous.

Egypt has remained silent on the issue but some Egyptians want the government to insist on the league setting up shop again in Cairo.

Former league secretary-general Egyptian Mahmoud Riad, who resigned in protest at Egypt's peace treaty with Israel, said moving the headquarters violated the league's charter, which specifies Cairo as its permanent seat.

"If it continues its work in Tunis, which is a temporary headquarters, that is in my view a very big mistake," he said.

"The headquarters must be in Cairo."

To be poor and black in S. Africa

By Gill Tudor
Reuter

JOHANNESBURG — While a few black South Africans are starting to close the economic chasm separating them from their white compatriots, most blacks still live in grinding poverty, a recently-published report says.

The book, by two South Africans, says the racially-polarised gulf between rich and poor is wider in South Africa than in any other country on record.

Pretoria has done away with some of apartheid's more infamous aspects in recent years and often argues that South African blacks are economically better off than other Africans.

But according to "uprooting poverty, the South African challenge" by economist Francis Wilson and doctor Mamphele Ramphela, nearly two thirds of the country's 25 million blacks still scratch by on less than a basic subsistence income.

"Thousands of South African babies are dying of malnutrition and associated diseases two million children are growing up stunted for lack of sufficient calories in one of the few countries in the world that exports food," the report says.

"Tens of thousands of men are spending their entire working years as lonely 'labour units' in single-sex hostels whilst their wives and children live generally in great poverty in the overcrowded reserves (tribal homelands)."

The report, the fruit of eight years' planning and research, was written for the second Carnegie inquiry into poverty and development in Southern Africa under a commission originally set up in the 1930s to

study poverty among whites. The first inquiry paid little attention to blacks, the authors say, and while poor whites are now a tiny minority, black poverty has remained acute.

The report says the black share of the nation's total income increased from 20 to 25 per cent between 1970 and 1980, while the white share shrank from 71 to 65 per cent.

But massive inequality remains in a country where three quarters of the people are black and whites constitute only 15 per cent of the population. The remainder are mixed-race and of Asian extraction.

Furthermore, the authors say population growth means the absolute number of desperately poor people has probably risen by some two million.

"What seems to have happened is that... inequalities between blacks widened as wealth trickled down to a small but growing middle class, whilst the majority were left far behind," they say.

The report paints a grim picture of widespread hunger, overcrowding and disease, particularly in the South African countryside and in the 10 homelands set up as an important plank in Pretoria's apartheid racial system.

"When your children cry hunger-crying, your heart wants to break. It will be better if they were dead," one black mother is quoted as saying.

Infant mortality — the number of children who die before their first birthday — is between 94 and 124 per 1,000 live black births. For whites, the figure is 12.

The report describes a South Africa where homelands are used as pools of cheap labour and dumping grounds for the unemployed. Unofficial esti-

mates put unemployment at 35 per cent.

"When you are out of a job, you realise that the boss and the government have the power to condemn you to death," the book quotes a migrant worker says.

"If they send you back home... and you realise you can't get a new job, it's a death sentence. The countryside is pushing you into the cities to survive, the cities are pushing you into the countryside to die."

The report has provoked considerable debate inside South Africa, with ample coverage in the press and state-run media.

A radio commentary which voices government views cautiously acknowledged the report but played down many of its criticisms, arguing that Pretoria had strengthened its commitment to black employment, housing, education and welfare.

"South Africa is confronted by precisely the same problems as every other developing country — problems of widespread poverty, rapid population growth and high levels of illiteracy and infant mortality," it said.

But the authors say South Africa is unique both because of the degree of inequality and the extent to which poverty is caused and reinforced by deliberate racial policies.

As examples they cite government restrictions on blacks seeking work outside the homelands, and "forced removals" which have uprooted thousands from their homes in designated white areas in the name of residential apartheid.

"Virtually all the strategies individuals can adopt against poverty involve breaking the law in some way," they say.



Jordanian models dressed in clothes worn in different areas of Jordan

To dress Arabian

By Mariam M. Shalhin
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arabic music from Morocco in the west to Yemen in the south to Iraq in the east and Syria in the north accompanied an Arab fashion show spectacular in Amman last week.

On show against the backdrop of tantalising music was the private collection of Arab dresses of Hana Sadeq Beraudo, drawn from Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, the Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Jordan.

The dedicated but selective pursuit of the Amman-based collector was indeed reflected in the range of dresses on display, which was hosted by the Jordanian chapter of the American University of Cairo (AUC) Alumni Club.

In Beraudo's own words, "it has taken me a great deal of time, effort and money to collect these items."

But, what were her motivations to start collecting what could be described as some of the best in fashion and tradition from the Arab World — whether in the Mashreq or Maghreb? "First, I wanted to save the designs; second, the idea was to keep them alive as reference material; and third, I wanted to develop them and give the contemporary Arab woman the chance to use them in her different daily activities."

Beraudo pointed out to the audience, mostly members of the AUC Alumni Club and their families and friends, that historically the clothing industry began with the planting of seeds and rearing of animals. This was followed by the spinning of threads

and the weaving of materials. The materials were subsequently coloured and designed with an eye on protection, comfort, beauty and elegance to the wearer.

Beraudo, who has been collecting Arab dresses and designs for the past 20 years, believes that "clothes give people a distinctive character reflecting their natural identity."

As perhaps everywhere, in the Arab World too people dress according to their natural environment, says Beraudo, who has divided the clothes worn in the Middle East into three main categories — city dresses, country attires and desert clothes.

Explaining further on the categorisation, Beraudo observed that city dwellers change their clothes according to the different times of year and occasions. Their clothes are spun finely and embroidery is an important element in making them as esthetically beautiful as possible. Delicate jewellery is often worn with city dresses. Beraudo points out that "the clothes that city folk wear are more decorative than substantive."

Several factors left their mark on the clothes city people wore; 1) trade and artistic exchange with other countries and cultures; 2) relative economic prosperity and 3) religion and social ethos.

The designs and materials used to make village or country clothing are determined mainly by geographical imperatives, says the collector. The dresses are cut simply and often decoration is minimal and spontaneous. The patch work often seen on dresses is one example of spontaneous decoration. It is also an example of how every piece of material is

used economically and how to accommodate the dress of a larger woman when the width of her loom does not accommodate her figure.

Country women use a great deal of jewelry. Their jewelry is often simply cut and has religious relevance. According to Beraudo, "the simplicity in which both the country and bedouin woman dresses and decorates herself reflects the society she lives in. There is a minimal amount of class distinction in these societies as well as more economic self-reliance than in the city. Country folk and the bedouin do not show their wealth or 'greatness' through fancy clothing, but rather by their generosity, courage and other social characteristics."

Beraudo points out that "unfortunately, when a bedouin or a peasant decides to come to the city, he/she often leave behind their 'authentic apparel', and begin to imitate city dwellers to an exaggerated extent. This often leads to a disfiguration and chaos in appearance."

Beraudo's show last Thursday reminded the audience of the wealth and artistic character of traditional dresses of the Arab World. She commented that "in the Middle East as in much of the developing world, people try to imitate the dressing habits of the West and often do so very clumsily. Dressing habits are often exaggerated and seem 'clownish.' People mimic the West as if they had an inferiority complex or a feeling of insecurity. Consequently modern clothing in the developing world often lack artistic character, beauty, originality and authenticity."



A Tunisian shirwal and jacket



A formal dress worn in Iraq and several Gulf countries



The traditional dress of Salt, Jordan



A dress from Syria



A dress from Ramallah, Palestine



A dress from Northern Iraq

Japanese bookbinder is would be emperor

By Janet Snyder
Reuter

TOKYO — If history had turned out differently, 64-year-old bookbinder Takanobu Kumazawa might have been the emperor of Japan.

He is not pressing too hard family's 600-year-old claim to the Chrysanthemum throne for fear of police harassment and rightist violence.

These days, he also refuses to grant interviews for fear that media exposure would harm the marriage prospects of his two daughters.

"I don't want to talk to anybody anymore," Takanobu told Reuters when contacted by telephone. "People create all kinds of stories about us, and I'm fed up with it."

His father, Hiromichi, went to his grave protesting that he was the real son of Heaven instead of Hirohito, who died on Jan. 7 after reigning for 62 years and whose funeral is on Feb. 24.

The family's right to some claim on the throne was acknowledged by none other than Hirohito's own grandfather, Emperor Meiji, but he died soon after recognising the Kumazawa's role in Japan's imperial history.

Now, as Hirohito's lavish funeral approaches, history buffs may be tempted to look back on the record.

The Kumazawa pretenders are at the centre of the only major dynastic schism in Japanese history, from 1336-1392.

In 1336 two rival branches of the imperial family, the northern court and the southern court, simultaneously staked claims to the throne.

They settled the matter with an agreement to take turns, each emperor to be followed by one from the rival branch.

But the northern court, ances-

tors of the current imperial family, reneged on the deal and tried to wipe out the southern court, ancestors of the Kumazawas.

After more than 50 years of battles, two surviving princes of the southern court escaped to Aichi prefecture in central Japan and took the name Kumazawa.

The dynastic dispute rested there for centuries and northern court successors like Hirohito and his son, and now emperor, Akihito have continued to reign.

It took Takanobu's grandfather Taizen, a Buddhist preacher, to stir things up 500 years after the southern court disappeared.

Taizen whipped up so much support for his claim at the turn of the century that in 1911 he even enlisted Emperor Meiji, who ordered history textbooks to note that 1336-92 was the southern court period.

Meiji died before the Kumazawa could establish themselves further.

Taizen died in 1929, but in 1946, his son Hiromichi took his cause to General Douglas MacArthur, then commander of the U.S. occupation forces in Japan.

Dressed in formal Kimono emblazoned with the imperial Chrysanthemum crest, the shaven-headed Hiromichi went to the headquarters of the occupation command and announced that he was the legitimate heir to the throne.

But MacArthur refused to see him. The decision to keep Hirohito on the throne after the war was made for the sake of Japan's stability and no rival claims were being considered.

Hiromichi, undaunted, went on the stump throughout Japan, and drummed up some grassroots support. He died in 1966.

Years of harassment by right-wing extremists have squelched son Takanobu's tentative public-

ity attempts. One family acquaintance commented on Takanobu's reluctance to go public: "His wife has convinced him that nothing will change. And the rightists can certainly disrupt the fortunes of the family if he persists."

In a rare interview granted before Hirohito's death, the Kyoto journal quoted Takanobu as saying: "The usurpation of the (southern court) is perhaps only one small problem, but it's symbolically important."

"The emperor as symbol of our people should express the truth of our history. If this great position is gained or maintained dishonestly, it sets a damaging precedent for the whole society."

For most Japanese, the "Kumazawa Emperor" is a virtually unknown footnote of history. But there are at least a few supporters.

Japanese mystery writer Jiro Kageyama wrote in a recent magazine article: "Emperor Hirohito is a descendant of the heretic northern dynasty. We should uphold the banner of the legitimacy of the southern dynasty."

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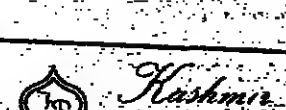
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World Bank forecasts new lending to reach \$21 billion

WASHINGTON (AP) — New loans by the World Bank, biggest source of aid to the Third World, will reach a record \$21 billion in the year ending June 30, bank officials predicted Tuesday.

Ernest Stern, vice president for finance, estimated that \$16 billion would go to the somewhat more prosperous countries which still need easy loans to raise their living standards. They pay interest at a variable rate, now 7.65 per cent a year.

Sheldon Rappaport, the bank's financial spokesman, said over \$5.5 billion will go to the poorest countries from the bank's International Development Association (IDA). It makes loans at less than one per cent interest.

New loans in the previous year totalled \$19.2 billion.

Last April, the 151 govern-

ments that own the bank agreed to raise its capital by about \$75 billion so that it can go on increasing its loans.

Stern said that by the end of the year seven countries had subscribed fully for a total of \$8.76 billion. Seven others had subscribed in part, including the United States, which owns the largest block of shares.

Between July and December, the first half of the bank's year, new loans totalled \$4.6 billion. Stern explained to reporters that loans are always hunched in the final three months of the bank's year, between April and June.

He singled out India, the biggest borrower, as making a special effort to increase its use of credit from the bank. Many Third World countries, already carrying heavy debt burdens, are reluctant to add to them.

Stern said the bank had net income of \$486 million in the July-December period, after making a provision of \$176 million for possible losses.

Last June, it decided to start putting such provisions aside whether a country is six months overdue on any payment. Previously it waited for two years.

No new country fell behind by six months in the last half of 1988 and the situation has stabilised, Stern said.

Countries still six months behind in their payments are Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Guyana,

Liberia, Syria, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

The bank makes most of its money by using its excellent credit standing to borrow money at advantageous rates all over the world and invest it at higher rates while waiting to lend it to the countries that need it.

Loans to the poorest areas are financed out of direct contributions by more than 30 donor countries.

This year the bank expects to borrow about \$10 billion, down from \$11.5 billion last year. Stern explained that some of the countries it has loaned to in the past — notably South Korea and Romania — have been making early repayments.

Smaller amounts are coming from Thailand, he said.

Austral loses 32 per cent against dollar

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The foreign exchange value of the Austral, Argentina's national currency, fell by 32 per cent when banks and exchange houses opened Tuesday morning following a one-day, government-ordered shutdown.

Argentines who could purchase one dollar for 17.59 australs last Friday found they had to pay 26 australs Tuesday morning.

The fluctuation follows the decision Sunday night by the economy ministry to no longer intervene in the exchange market by selling dollars in an effort to stabilise the austral and dampen inflation.

In addition to holding down the dollar, which Argentines for years have bought as a hedge

against inflation, the government since last August has kept interest rates positive to encourage investors to put their australs in certificates of deposit and other financial instruments, thus keeping them in the banking system and generating funds for lending.

However, inflation in December and January — 6.8 per cent and 8.9 per cent, respectively — outpaced government projections, interest rates rose into double digits, and more and more Argentines concluded the government could not afford to continue propping up the austral.

In the first week of February, the central bank sold \$486 million and interest rates neared 20 per cent a month, reflecting inflation, the government's constant mini-

devaluations, and the risk of tying up australs that might generate a higher profit if dollars were bought.

Inflation in 1988 soared 387 per cent.

Monday, the government announced it would keep a three-tiered exchange rate system — the official rate, a "special" rate that is 25 per cent higher, and the "black market" or free rate.

The "special" rate replaces the previous, so-called financial rate that was used to determine how much industrial exporters would be paid in australs for their dollars. Farm exporters are required to sell most of the dollars to the government at the lower official rate.

The central bank spent more

than \$1 billion in the past several months trying to keep the "black market" rate in line with the financial rate.

Argentines who were unhappy with the old system, aren't happy with the new one, either.

Farm exporters, who provide the bulk of Argentina's foreign exchange earnings, immediately grumbled that while the "special" rate is marginally higher than the financial rate, they still have to sell most of their dollars to the central bank at a little more than 14 to 1.

Businessmen say interest rates which have made borrowing prohibitive aren't likely to come down even with the exchange rate changes.

'Bush plan puts heavy burden on banks'

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Federal Reserve board chairman Paul Volcker said Tuesday that President Bush's plan to rescue savings institutions placed a heavy financial burden on commercial and savings banks.

Testifying before the Senate Banking Committee, Volcker said the increase in federal insurance premiums for banks and thrifts "goes to the limits of what's tolerable" because of the competitive pressures on banks that already have slim profit margins.

"Banks are having enough problems now," Volcker said. "I don't like to see additional burdens placed on them."

Bush proposed increasing fees on thrifts to 23 cents per \$100 of deposits from 21 cents and on banks to 15 cents from eight cents to help cover \$50 billion in bonds needed to pay for the bailout.

Volcker said that while the increase in premiums skirted "the edge of viability" for thrifts, it did not threaten the health of the banking system.

But the National Council of Savings Institutions (NCSI), an industry group that represents 500 banks and thrifts, said the Bush plan could cause more insolvencies and raise the cost of the rescue to the taxpayer.

The group estimated that 1,200 solvent thrifts would have to raise some \$17 billion in new capital, which would represent a doubling to their capital in two years.

"They might not make it as institutions. You may well increase the costs to taxpayers if you create more insolvencies," said NCSI Chairman Charles John Koch.

He said investors would be deterred from putting more capital into the thrift industry because of the higher fees.

He told a news conference the Bush plan will cost taxpayers \$12 billion more over 30 years because the proposed sale of \$50 billion in bonds would be done by a newly formed corporation rather than by the Treasury Department.

The bonds will be sold by the Resolution Funding Corp (REF-

CO) and must pay 80 basis points or more yield above comparable treasury bonds. Koch urged that the treasury sell the bonds and the costs be fully U.S. government-backed.

Meanwhile, economists say that the United States needs to boost its rate of savings, and businesses must plough more money into plants and equipment if the nation hopes to slash its external deficits.

Progress appears stalled in Washington's battle to reduce the trade and current account deficits, which measure U.S. demand for imports against foreign demand for American products.

While the dollar has declined more than 50 per cent in the past three years, making U.S. exports more competitive, the currency decline by itself has not reversed the imbalances.

The United States must make the following basic changes, economists told Reuters in interviews this week:

- Boost government, personal and corporate savings to reduce the dependence on foreign borrowing and free up funds for productive investment;
- Bolster investment in plants and equipment to raise productivity, making American goods more competitive by lowering costs;
- Increase research and development and create new, higher-quality products and
- Find new markets for U.S. exports to make up for the loss of demand from Latin America, which is burdened by debt, and from the 13 members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, which are pressured by low oil prices.

Biggest jobs agency proves solid

LONDON (R) — The world's biggest employment agency, Blue Arrow has reported 1988 results that confirmed brokerage analysts' views that it was more a solid performer than quite the soaring high flier they once thought.

Pre-tax profits rose to £75.1 million (\$130.4 million) for the year to Oct. 31 from £29.1 million (\$50.5 million) the year before. Analysts a few months ago said they were looking for a result

around 30 per cent higher. British-based Blue Arrow says it never made that kind of forecast itself.

The figures reflected the first full year of results from Manpower Inc, the U.S. employment agency which Blue Arrow took over in 1987.

The announcement of the results had been delayed for a week, apparently because of a recent management shake-out in which a boardroom coup toppled chief executive Tony Berry, meanwhile its stockbrokers have just walked out on it.

Berry changed the map of the worldwide employment business with Blue Arrow's takeover of Manpower for \$1.3 billion.

Blue Arrow said its main operating companies were in good shape and it denied reports it planned to restructure or sell off chunks of the group.

It said it provided 1.5 million workers to 300,000 clients during the year through a network of 2,000 branch offices in 32 countries.

Berry, who built up the company, was last month stripped of executive powers

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Arab Banking Corp returns to profit in '88

BAHRAIN (R) — Bahrain's biggest offshore bank, Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), said Wednesday it made a net profit of \$124 million in 1988 despite further provisions for Third World debt.

President and chief executive Abdullah Sandi told reporters the bank's operating profit rose by 27 per cent during the year to a record \$239 million.

He said the bank's board of directors would recommend a dividend of five per cent — or \$37.5 million — to its shareholders, the Kuwaiti finance ministry, the Libyan treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority.

ABC declared no profit for 1987 after adding \$375 million to loan losses.

The bank set aside an additional \$79 million for 1988, boosting its cover to seven per cent of total loan exposure.

ABC says its Latin American debt is \$1.4 billion, most owed by Brazil.

Saudi said the bank was studying plans for a public share flotation in Arab markets.

"We are considering privatisation but if we do, it will be in Arab markets," he said.

"We have accepted the idea in principle but plans are not finalised," he added. He gave no further details.

Total shareholders funds rose by eight per cent to \$1.14 billion at end-1988 from \$1.06 billion at end-1987.

Total assets jumped by nine per cent to \$19.13 billion while deposits rose to \$15.9 billion from \$14.3.

Loans increased 12 per cent during the year to \$8.2 billion. Saudi attributed the rise in 1988 income to an increase in fee revenues, especially commissions.

ABC has recently announced plans to open a representative office in Tunisia by March. In addition, Worsham said

Striking Indian workers in Kuwait want to go home

KUWAIT (R) — Nine hundred striking Indian workers lured to the Gulf by visions of wealth are living off charity in Kuwait, hoping now for plane tickets home.

"We haven't received a single penny in months," said project engineer S.S. Paul, a native of Punjab, standing outside a row of tin shacks where workers say rats infest the kitchens and the water taps sometimes run dry.

"We are not going to stay here. We are facing too much difficulty. They should pay us our dues and give us an air ticket," he said.

Paul and his workmates have been on strike for three weeks over non-payment of wages.

They say their dreams of earning a small fortune building houses in the desert for Kuwait's National Housing Authority have turned into a daily battle with cold, boredom and empty promises.

They are victims of contractors' dispute increasingly common in

the intensely competitive Gulf construction sector where business has plummeted since world oil prices began to fall in the early 1980s.

The main contractor, Al Fawaris Trading and Contracting Company, says the two Indian subcontractors should pay the wages.

But the subcontractors — Koreishi Construction Company and Simran Construction Company — say they cannot pay until the contractor pays them.

In the meantime, the workers eat lentils and rice donated by local Indian charities and wrap themselves up against Kuwait's coldest winter in 20 years.

Cement mixers and piles of gravel surround the dusty camp at Al Qurain, 16 kilometres outside Kuwait City on a ridge overlooking the Gulf.

"There has been no meat in five months," complains Anirag Sharma, 24, of Punjab.

"There is no medical treatment," adds Peter Lona, 31, of Kerala.

Javid Koreishi, director of Koreishi Construction Company, said a solution was in sight. "Al Fawaris has agreed to pay the salaries next week but the labourers won't go back to work," he told Reuters. "It seems there is someone organising it."

The workers are sceptical. "We are not believing," said Paul. "They have bluffed too many times." He said it was the third time the workers had walked off the job since they arrived on the site last August.

Their leaders have filed 330 cases with the Kuwait Labour Court, borrowing money to pay for taxi rides into town. But they do not expect any immediate results.

Koreishi said the workers' complaints about conditions at the camp were exaggerated.

American Air orders 150 aircraft

NEW YORK (R) — American Airlines, the largest U.S. carrier, Tuesday announced orders and options to acquire up to 150 aircraft from McDonnell Douglas Corp in a deal that could be worth about \$7.2 billion.

In the second-largest civil aviation order in history, American Air, a unit of AMR Corp, said it would buy eight long-range MD-11 aircraft and acquire options for up to 42 more MD-11s and 100 MD-80 short- to medium-range jetliners.

American did not put a figure on the deal but Jim Worsham, president of the Douglas Aircraft Co. unit of McDonnell Douglas, said it was worth \$7.2 billion if all the planes were delivered. He said he valued the MD-11s at about \$100 million each and the MD-80s at \$24 million each.

In addition, Worsham said

orders from several European and Middle Eastern airlines for another 26 MD-11s brought to \$10 billion the total value of all aircraft orders and options announced by Douglas Tuesday.

McDonnell Douglas said it received orders for 18 MD-11s from Air Europe of Britain, four from Aero Lloyd of West Germany, two from ZAS Airline of Egypt and two from Finnair, the national airline of Finland.

The orders are a milestone for McDonnell Douglas's civil airliner programme. The St. Louis-based company gambled late in 1986 that world demand for jetliners would justify a \$1.4-billion investment in its MD-11 wide-body plane.

The total of 76 orders for MD-11s by the five airlines, including American, is worth \$8.4 billion, according to Chairman John McDonnell.

General Electric Co. (G.E.) will supply up to 200 CF6-80C2 engines to power most of American's wide-body jetliners, including the MD-11, in what was called the largest order for commercial aircraft engines ever.

American and G.E. declined to disclose how much the engine deal was worth, but analysts said it was worth about \$2 billion including spare parts.

Analysts said American's choice of McDonnell Douglas partly reflects the backlog of orders at Boeing Co, the world's largest builder of commercial airplanes.

The order is the second major one for the MD-11 since September, when Delta Air Lines Inc ordered 40 of the planes, in addition to 100 MD-88s, 25 Boeing 767-300s and 50 Boeing 757-232s. That deal is worth a total of \$10.5 billion, the largest deal in air history.

American said four of the eight MD-11s on firm order will be delivered in 1990 and four in 1991. The 42 options have delivery dates of between 1992 and 1999. The MD-88s are set for delivery between 1992 and 1996.

Meanwhile aircraft manufacturer Boeing Co. said Tuesday it had delayed deliveries of the first five 747-700 jumbo jets ordered by Japan Air Lines Co. Ltd.

Boeing, which has been plagued by problems with the aircraft — the newest model of its popular 747 wide-bodied passenger plane — said it would discuss the possibility of further delays as the situation warrants.

Japan Air said Tuesday its first two aircraft, due in August, will now be delivered in November.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, Feb. 8, 1989 Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	565.0	570.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	436.0 440.4
Pound Sterling	982.5	992.3	Dutch guilder	267.4 270.1
Deutsche mark	302.0	305.0	Swedish crown	88.9 89.8
Swiss franc	335.3	338.9	Italian lira (for 100)	41.4 41.8
French franc	88.7	89.6	Belgian franc (for 10)	144.1 145.5

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.7405/15	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1820/30	Canadian dollar
	1.8722/32	Deutsche marks
	2.1140/50	Dutch guilders
	1.5925/32	Swiss francs
	39.22/27	Belgian francs
	6.3700/50	French francs
	1365/1366	Italian lire
	129.40/50	Japanese yen
	6.3540/90	Swedish crowns
	6.7670/720	Norwegian crowns
	7.2810/60	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	390.40/390.90	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The Australian share market ended up despite thin trading and fresh interest rate worries. The All Ordinaries Index closed 0.0 points ahead at 1501.

TOKYO — Share prices hit their fourth straight record close in response to New York's new post-crash highs Tuesday and a stable dollar since the Group of Seven industrial nations meeting last week. The Nikkei index rose 184.47 points to close at 32,065.2.

HONG KONG — Market closed for Lunar New Year holiday. SINGAPORE — Share prices rose over a broad front on buying interest and bargain hunting in moderate trading. The Straits Times industrial index rose 8.37 points to 1,151.80.

BOMBAY — Share prices drifted lower in poor trading for the second successive day as marketmen kept to the sidelines to await fresh developments. Tata Steel fell 11.25 rupees to 1,230.

FRANKFURT — Share prices ended active trading sharply higher as the dollar stabilised around 1.87 marks, easing persistent market fears that world interest rates are rising. The real-time 30-share DAX index jumped 14.94 points or 1.1 per cent to close at 1,359.88.

ZURICH — Swiss shares closed higher and turnover was substantially above the levels of the last few days. The all-share Swiss index added 7.9 points to close at 970.2.

PARIS — French share prices extended gains by midday on steady buying by foreign and domestic investors with sentiment buoyed by news of record highs in London, New York and Tokyo. The 50-share price indicator was up 0.83 per cent at 1200 GMT.

LONDON — Shares were strong but below the day's highs in late afternoon business as early gains on Wall Street were reined back. By 15:45 GMT the FTSE 100 was up 23.6 points to 2,096.4 with blue chips giving up a strong early gain in morning trade. The Dow 30 was about unchanged at 2347 and gainers were even with



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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Saxby sets record in 3,000 m walk

SYDNEY (R) — Australian Kerry Saxby set a world best 3,000 metres walk time of 12 minutes 13.75 seconds Wednesday, shaving 0.73 seconds off the mark she clocked on the same track a year ago. Saxby's performance follows the 10,000 metres track walking world record she set in Canberra January 26 of 43:26.12, a time which bettered the mark of 43:52.1 set by China's Chen Yaoling in October 1987.

Richter wins, E. Germans dominate at Nok

BERLIN (AP) — Dirk Richter of East Germany defeated Canada's Mark Foris in the 50-metre freestyle competition at the Nok international swim meet Tuesday. East German competitors captured all but two events on the second day of the East Berlin meet. Richter swam the 50 metres in 23.38 seconds, with Foris coming in at 23.49. In one of the closer events, Uwe Daxler of East Germany edged Sweden's Anders Holmertz in the 200-metre freestyle. Daxler posted a time of 1 minute, 50.02 seconds, while Holmertz swam at 1:50.07. Soviet swimmer Sergei Sabolotov captured the 100-metre backstroke in 56.97 seconds.

Mitch Green arrested

NEW YORK (AP) — Former professional boxer Mitch "Blood" Green, best known for losing matches to heavyweight champion Mike Tyson in the ring and on the street, was arrested Tuesday in midtown Manhattan, police said. Green, 32, was arrested for driving with a revoked license. The former boxer was also wanted on a warrant for assault, said a police spokesman, detective Jim Coleman. Police stopped Green for questioning after receiving a report of a suspicious car in the area selling drugs, the detective said. However, there were no drugs or weapons found in the car or on Green, Coleman added. Green gave his license to the officers, who checked it and discovered it had been revoked, Coleman said. Green was arrested twice in four days in September: he was charged with assault for allegedly striking a woman friend on Sept. 25 and was charged with disorderly conduct after being found "ranting and raving" on a street corner in Upper Manhattan on Sept. 21.

Samaranch joins Nebiolo's party

ROME (R) — International Olympics chief Juan Antonio Samaranch Tuesday joined an Italian Athletics Federation (FIDAL) party hosted by Primo Nebiolo, who resigned as president after a series of damaging scandals. The 65-year-old chose the day his resignation took effect to host FIDAL's annual party celebrating the athletics achievements of the past year. Warm applause from sports officials and top athletes greeted Nebiolo, who resigned last month under pressure after nearly 20 years at the helm. He remains president of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF). Praising Nebiolo's long commitment to sport, International Olympic Committee (IOC) president Samaranch said: "In the last 20 years Italian athletes have achieved excellent results. In a few years time, from a different perspective, greater justice will be afforded to what Nebiolo has done."

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A1043 ♥K ♠AK742 ♠QJ
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠A1043 ♥5 ♠AK742 ♠93
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠KJ ♥A10643 ♠10 ♠A1092
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
3 What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K6 ♥QJ107 ♦QJ762 ♠A7
The bidding has proceeded:
North ♠ East South West
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♦ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠762 ♥K10 ♠AQ93 ♠A654
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
3 ♠ Dbl Pass 4 What action do you take?

Q.6—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AJ6 ♥1098 ♦543 ♠Q743
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♥ 1 ♠ 2 ♦ 3 What action do you take? Look for answers on Monday.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"That was our first date. Stanley was trying to find the courage to hold my hand. Thirty years later, he's still trying."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

HYDUC

SURUP

TOBENN

IMUSSE

Wouldn't hurt if you both lost a few pounds

HIS WORST FAULT IS TELLING OTHER PEOPLE

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FANCY OFTEN NOZZLE RADIAL
Answer: What that tiresome speechmaker could not be after he was called on—CALLED OFF

Yugoslav soccer player denied U.K. work permit

LONDON (R) — A dramatic about-turn by English soccer chiefs seems to have come too late for Yugoslav defender Milos Drizic to join first division Southampton.

It emerged Tuesday that Drizic had been refused a work permit by the department of employment after the English Football Association (F.A.) told Southampton the player did not "match up to the very high standards required by us."

Then later in the day a department spokesman said: "We have received a letter from the F.A. to say they have changed their minds and they would now recommend that Drizic stays. But their letter arrived too late."

"We had already rejected him on the basis that his qualifications did not meet our criteria for all foreign footballers wishing to play in this country."

"Normally we expect a player to have made at least 20 full international appearances to

qualify for a work permit.

"We must be certain that a player's skill will enhance the game in this country. As the F.A. originally said he did not have these required skills we had to turn him down."

Drizic has played a B international against Bulgaria and has twice been in the senior squad, but without playing. He now faces having to return home.

Southampton secretary Brian Truscott said: "We're very disappointed, particularly for the player."

"He's been with us for five weeks and was really looking forward to making his debut." Southampton agreed a £450,000 fee for Drizic with Red Belgrade nearly a month ago.

A letter from the F.A. to Southampton manager, Chris Nicholl said: "While we agree he is a highly accomplished player, he does not match up to the very high standards required by us."

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1989

YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Confusion, irritation and congestion may be a dilemma for those who must drive city streets. Expect unexpected changes throughout the day. Keep impulsive behavior in check.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) When your attitude is positive, much can be gained. If you are in the mood to splurge, go ahead and indulge in your desires.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Superiors may be difficult to deal with. Rely on good judgment to keep away from negative or critical responses that you may regret later.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Creative juices flow, and stimulating ideas can be used to advance career goals. Give family members a share in your time.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Don't overreact yourself and let worry and tension affect your physical well-being. Exercise will promote more restful nights.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) New opportunities appear at the job. A new you is emerging with a balanced sense of self-esteem. You may feel best staying close to home.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Now

that you have the ball rolling, you can let the momentum carry you through with patience. Results will mature and bring future rewards.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) Early morning hours may be difficult, but the rest of the day will be smooth sailing. A reminder: Luck can be an invitation to take foolish risks.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Being the center of attention may not be your most comfortable style. It is great to be in demand, so enjoy it while you can.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A new way of doing things can be rewarding. Advise superiors of your ideas. Creativity kept secret will remain unknown.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Life is moving along with joy and financial security. A relationship is turning out to be more than you thought it would be.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Be prepared to handle numerous irritating situations. Relax and spend time around the house on enjoyable personal pursuits.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Relax and enjoy life. Plan a dinner party or social gathering. You could meet someone charming who will be a good friend.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1989

— As Charted By The Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Words that lack consideration can have negative results. If you find yourself at odds with a friend or loved one, the best angle may be silence. Take an indirect approach.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Relationships are in the spotlight. The morning is energetic and spurs a feeling of confidence that draws others to you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Intuition is at its best today, especially in the evening. Act on your hunches, and be willing to organize them into action and purpose.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) There is an air of rebelliousness in your nature today. You are not content with the status quo and wish to implement your way.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) You prefer a one-to-one approach today. Working with others may not go well, resulting in irritation. Bend a little.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Act first and think later. You know the results when you do that. Love can come calling, so be prepared to handle the situation.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Expect to lift some foul balls, but have

faith that you will not strike out. Keep swinging to build continuing results.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) You may be admired by a VIP as a result of your harmonious ways.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) A new relationship has some flaws, but don't discard it yet. Enjoy it and let it grow with time. Luck is on your side.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A picky VIP may be on your case. Have children with tact. An angry fuss won't make matters any better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Love is with you. Enjoy it and refrain from questioning success. A too-good-to-be-true philosophy carries the seeds of failure.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Domestic problems ease. You may be feeling sexually needy. Expect important news about your mate's finances.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Mental pressure could make you feel dragged out. Accept a social invitation if offered. You will get a second wind later in the day.

Borg back home, suicide attempt denied

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Retired Swedish tennis star Bjorn Borg was treated and released from hospital Tuesday after becoming ill following a meal and taking pills to help him sleep, his personal adviser said.

Italian news agencies initially reported that the five-time Wimbledon champion may have swallowed habituates in a suicide attempt, but later said they had no official confirmation.

The 32-year-old Borg was rushed by ambulance to the intensive care unit of Milan Polyclinic at about 9 a.m. from the downtown apartment where he has been staying with his Italian fiancée, rock singer Loredana Berté.

Borg was released from the hospital after three hours and returned home by taxi with the 41-year-old entertainer.

"I'm fine, it's all over," Borg told reporters outside the apartment.

In Stockholm, the national news agency TT said Borg's personal adviser Ingemar Alverdal called on his behalf to say that the tennis star became ill after eating at a restaurant.

"Borg felt sick... and took barbiturates to fall asleep," Alverdal was quoted as saying. "But his nausea got worse, and in the morning, on doctors advice, (he) went to hospital."

After treatment "he returned home and announced from there that he felt perfectly all right," Alverdal said.

Mara Savastano, a friend of the couple, said the singer told her that Borg had suffered from food poisoning.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported, "from initial police investigations, it appears to have been a suicide attempt." But the agency later said it could get no official confirmation.

The agency quoted unidentified hospital sources as saying Borg had apparently swallowed about 10 pills, and possibly as many as 60, but said that also could not be confirmed.

Borg beat Ilie Nastase in the Wimbledon final in 1976 to become the first Scandinavian to win there, and went on to capture the title five consecutive years.

He won the French Open six times, in 1974, 1975, and 1978 through 1981.

However, he never won or made the finals in the Australian Open. He also never won the U.S. Open, losing four times in the finals, in 1976 and 1978 to Jimmy Connors, and in 1980 and 1981 to John McEnroe.

Svet ends Schneider's run

VAIL, Colorado (R) — Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia ended a remarkable winning run by Swiss ace Vreni Schneider when she swooped to victory in the women's slalom at the Alpine skiing world championships Tuesday.

Svet upstaged Schneider on the Beaver creek centennial track and foiled American Tamara McKinney's bid for a second gold medal.

Olympic champion Schneider trailed eight after the first leg but produced a characteristically rip-

roaring second run which withstood the challenge of all but the 20-year-old Yugoslav.

McKinney, who won the combined slalom last Thursday, held a wafer-thin first leg lead of 0.04 seconds over Svet, with Schneider a vast 1.47 seconds off the pace in the 53-gate run.

But Schneider, winner of all five slaloms and all five giant slaloms in this world cup season, struck back in the second, clocking 46.04 seconds through the 56 gates for an aggregate one minute

31.49 seconds.

The time held until Svet swung down in 46.86 to administer Schneider's first slalom defeat of the season with an overall time of 1:30.88.

McKinney could not match the momentum of her pace-setting first leg run of 43.98 and had to settle for the bronze, 0.68 behind Svet and 0.07 behind Schneider.

Svet said: "I had a dream last night so strong that I would win. I can't believe it came true... after so many years of trying I just can't believe it."

Bruno is 'ready for anything'

FOUNTAIN HILLS, Ariz. (R) — Maybe it was the ghosts of old-time trainers haunting him, but Frank Bruno looked very slow and awkward Tuesday following a weekend visit with a woman he described as "my lady."

For years it has been a boxing axiom — especially among veteran trainers — that for a fighter to stay mentally sharp and tough he must be celibate while in training camp.

But in recent years some trainers have looked the other way, to the consternation of boxing old timers, when their fighters arrange liaisons.

Bruno, 27, has been training in this planned community about 25 miles (40 km) from Phoenix since the beginning of January for his February 25 fight with World Heavyweight Champion Mike Tyson in Las Vegas and he says he was lonely.

The subject even came up when Bruno, 32-2, was a guest on Johnny Carson's television show earlier this week.

Carson asked Bruno about the attention he had been receiving,

especially from women. The Briton joked that he had to pretend to have headaches when approached by several women.

"It's been tedious running every morning, getting up to about 106 rounds (of sparring) in that month. It's been a good break," Bruno said of the visit from the mother of his two children.

"I feel recharged and happy," added Bruno, who is not married. Bruno's manager, Terry Lawless, was asked about the break with tradition, but instead Bruno quickly answered.

"It was my idea. Some boxers' wives never leave their sides during training camp," Bruno said. "A lot of them have had their wives in. I've had my lady here for two days. Are you trying to make a (newspaper) exclusive about that?" he asked reporters.

It was debatable whether it was the break with fading boxing tradition, but Bruno, a giant of a man with the chisled body of a weightlifter, was unimpressive in his six rounds of sparring under a white tent on a hill in this desert village.

He appeared stiff and was easi-

ly hit by the journeyman sparring partners. His timing was off as he missed uppercuts and jabs, which should be important weapons against Tyson.

Bruno, 1.91 metres tall and about 104 kg, even appeared leadfooted when jumping rope.

Bruno was asked about Tyson's insistence that no fighter can beat him.

"There is no human being who is unbeatable," said Bruno, who refused to say how he would win the scheduled 12-round fight against the 22-year-old undefeated champion.

"I'm not going to get involved in it. Just believe me, it's a peak time to beat him," said Bruno, who sparred with Tyson for about a week several years ago.

"Mike Tyson hasn't improved much except he's gotten richer. I think he was much more aggressive as a youngster than he is now," Bruno said.

Lawless said that his fighter is ready for anything.

"If he (Tyson) hits low, we'll hit low," Lawless said. "If he hits after the bell, we'll hit after the bell."

Chovanec: the Czech pioneer

EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (R) — Jozef Chovanec, the first top Czechoslovak player permitted to join a West European club before reaching 30, carries a heavy burden on his shoulders.

He has been recruited by European Cup holders PSV Eindhoven to replace Libero Ronald Koeman, one of the game's outstanding players.

But the knowledge that he will be compared with Koeman, who moves to Spanish club Barcelona in July, does not appear to worry the skipper of the Czechoslovak national side.

"He (Koeman) is used to playing attacking soccer," said 28-year-old Chovanec. "I am used to

a more defensive role so I have to learn to play a more attacking game."

Chovanec, who began his career as a midfielder, is clearly relishing the challenge.

Other clubs in West Germany and Belgium expressed an interest in signing the Sparta Prague player, but Chovanec opted for PSV because he preferred their playing style.

"Soccer in the Netherlands is an attacking game, while Czechs play more defensively," he said. "I like Dutch soccer and wanted to try it out, and it is everybody's dream to play for the European Cup winners," he said.

Chovanec's decision to join

PSV was also made on the advice of Vaclav Jizek, coach of the Czechoslovak youth side.

Jizek, former Sparta Prague trainer, gained his knowledge of Dutch soccer first-hand while manager of Feyenoord Rotterdam.

Chovanec's move to PSV was the result of a one-off agreement between himself and the Czechoslovak soccer federation, but he expects other leading Czechoslovak players to follow him to West European clubs if, as expected, the federation reduces the minimum age which players can join foreign sides from 30 to 28 later this year.

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



John in 1989



New Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez is embraced by Asuncion's Archbishop Ismael Rolon at the start of a mass for the people who died during the military coup (Reuter photo)

Paraguay coup leader starts purge; Stroessner stays in Brazil

ASUNCION (Agencies)—Coup leader General Andres Rodriguez sought to strengthen his new government by replacing about 30 military officers, including the commanders of the three army corps, with men of his own choice.

Rodriguez deposed longtime president Alfredo Stroessner in a bloody coup Friday, was sworn in as president, dissolved congress and called national elections for May 1.

Stroessner, who had ruled the country for 34 years, has been exiled to Brazil and his name is being expunged from many civic monuments. He said Tuesday that he would spend the rest of his life there.

Leaders of four opposition parties say they need more time to organize for the elections, but government leaders Tuesday rejected such appeals.

"The national constitution sets

the time allowed" to choose a permanent successor to Stroessner. Foreign Minister Luis Maria Argana said. "And we already have given the maximum allowed."

Critics disagreed. The government "always cites the constitution when it is convenient for them," said Euclides Acevedo, president of the left-leaning Revolutionary Frontista Party.

The opposition parties, three of which were never recognised by Stroessner and have never participated in national elections, will face the powerful ruling Colorado Party, which has won every Paraguayan election since 1947.

The opposition has demanded participation of all parties in the election, in particular the communists, whom Rodriguez excluded by saying they were not democratic as stipulated by the constitution.

Opposition leader Domingo Laino said he thought it "probable" that Rodriguez would be the Colorado candidate. "It is a concentration of force," he said, by the ruling party and the armed forces in this landlocked South American state of nearly four million residents.

Rodriguez, who is commander-in-chief of the armed forces, acted Tuesday to consolidate his power in army, navy and air force, reassigning about 30 officers — ranging from the commanders of the three army corps to airport administrators — with his own choices.

Stroessner, 76, told a news conference Tuesday in Brazil that he would spend the rest of his life there because it "received me with kindness and hospitality." He is living temporarily in the remote interior city of Iumbiara, 430 kilometres southeast of Brasilia, the capital.

Korean talks end in acrimony

PANMUNJOM, Korea (Agencies)—Talks aimed at arranging an unprecedented meeting between the prime ministers of North and South Korea came to a halt Wednesday amid a bitter dispute over Seoul's annual war games with U.S. forces.

"It is absurd for us shaking hands with you while ... you are pointing bayonets at our hearts," said chief North Korean delegate Paik Nam-Jun, demanding an end to the military manoeuvres.

Just hours after the talks ended, North Korea announced it would not attend another border meeting scheduled for Friday between members of parliament from Pyongyang and Seoul.

The North Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), monitored in Tokyo, quoted a parliamentary spokesman as saying Friday's session would be postponed until the military exercises were over, probably in April.

Friday's meeting would have been the eighth session of talks aimed at setting up a meeting between the two countries' parliaments.

Both Washington and Seoul say the "Team Spirit" exercise, the largest war games in the

first between the two Koreas' prime ministers since the division of their land 44 years ago and the talks would be the highest-level discussions between the two sides.

Friday's scheduled talks were part of a series aimed at arranging full-scale North-South parliamentary talks on such issues as a non-aggression pact.

North Korea's official Pyongyang radio, monitored in Tokyo, quoted an unnamed North Korean spokesman as saying the North had wanted the question of stopping the exercises put on the talks' agenda, but holding the talks as scheduled now would be difficult because the exercises already had begun.

South Korea's senior delegate, Song Han-Ho, also accused North Korea of being insincere, saying, "their demand for a halt to the exercises seems to be a precondition to dialogue."

Song said the joint exercises, conducted annually since 1976, were defensive in nature. But he said the exercises could be modified or stopped if the leaders of the two Koreas were to meet and resolve their basic differ-

ences. North Korea has repeatedly threatened to call off all scheduled talks with South Korea unless this year's exercises were cancelled. In 1986, the North unilaterally called off all meetings to protest that year's joint exercises.

Although there has been no official confirmation, this year's exercises reportedly began last week. About 200,000 U.S. and South Korean troops participated in last year's two-month exercise.

In the past, the exercises have been announced well before they began, usually in early February, but this year a formal announcement was reportedly delayed to help promote dialogue between the two Koreas.

Pyongyang argues the exercises are preparation to invade its territory. U.S. and South Korean officials say they are necessary preparation for a possible North Korean invasion.

At Wednesday's talks, the chief North Korean delegate devoted half of his statement to charges against South Korea and demanded that Seoul stop suppressing the publication of pro-North Korea books.

COLUMN

Connelly silenced for a month

LOS ANGELES (R)—Actor Sean Connery, star of seven James Bond films, has successfully undergone a throat operation but he must not talk for a month, his wife said Tuesday. Connery has had a node removed from his vocal chord. Micheline Connery said in a statement issued through a press agent. The actor had withdrawn from a film version of Tom Stoppard's play "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead" because of his throat problem. He was resting comfortably at his home in Los Angeles, his wife said. Connery, who has two films to be released this year — "Indiana Jones, the Last Crusade" and "Family Business" — won an Oscar at last year's Academy Awards for best supporting actor for his role as a tough street cop in "The Untouchables". Born in Edinburgh, Connery worked as a milkman, truck driver and brick layer before becoming an actor. His James Bond films began with "Dr. No" in 1962.

First balloon flight over Everest planned

LONDON (R)—British mountaineer Chris Bonington said Tuesday he would attempt the first hot-air balloon flight over Mount Everest, which he conquered on foot in 1975. Bonington, 54, plans to hang above the world's highest peak in a 27-metre high balloon with cameraman Mark Jarrold and Swedish balloonist Per Lindstrand in September or October. "The thought of waiting across that mountain in a balloon is superb," Bonington told a news conference. "We could get gusted by the wind into a mountain, but I'm trusting per to have the skill to avoid this situation," said Bonington, who has never been in a hot-air balloon. An attempt by Lindstrand, 40, and "millionaire pop tycoon" Richard Branson to cross the Atlantic in a balloon in 1987 ended when it ditched into the Irish Sea and they had to be rescued. Lindstrand's company has made the £40,000 (\$70,000) balloon and the Everest venture is expected to cost up to £500,000 (\$870,000).

Bush a grandfather, for the 11th time

WASHINGTON (R)—Ashley Walker Bush, the 11th grandchild of President and Barbara Bush, was born Tuesday in a Denver Hospital, the White House announced. The seven-pound, two-ounce baby, the daughter of Neil and Sharon Bush, was described as resting comfortably at Denver's Rose Medical Centre.

Non-smokers on flights breathe in smoke

CHICAGO (R)—Non-smokers get an unhealthy dose of cigarette smoke even if they sit far from the smoking section of an airplane, researchers said Tuesday. In some cases, particularly in many later-model passenger jets where half the cabin air is recycled back into the plane, the atmosphere in the non-smoking sections were as bad or worse than the smoking section. Researcher Margaret Mattson of the National Cancer Institute monitored nicotine levels in four passengers and five flight attendants on four routine commercial flights of about four hours each. The results were published in this week's Journal of the American Medical Association. "Seating section was a less important predictor of actual nicotine exposure," Mattson wrote. "This bears out travellers' anecdotal observations that the section in which one sits is often not as important in determining exposure to smoke as is the environment generated by one's neighbours."

English still ahead in pancake race

LIBERAL, Kansas (AP)—A former, stand-out high school athlete led from start to finish in the American leg of the annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Race but failed to break England's winning streak, which grew to seven years, Donetta Schindler, 23, ran the 379-metre course in 65.91 seconds, easily outdistancing her competitor. Her time was nearly four seconds slower than the 62 seconds it took Linda Byrne, 26, to win the English leg of the race in Olney, England. Byrne's victory gave the English a 20-19 edge in the annual competition. About 1,000 spectators turned out for the race, held under sunny skies and temperatures in the upper 60s.

Tigers seek U.N. mediation

COLOMBO (Agencies)—Sri Lanka's separatist Tamil Guerrillas have called on the United Nations for the first time to help mediate a negotiated settlement of the island's bloody ethnic conflict.

The appeal by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who are fighting for an independent homeland, came in a letter to the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva, a copy of which was given to international news agencies Wednesday.

The LTTE also appealed to the commission to help persuade the Indian government to call an immediate ceasefire in its fight against Tiger guerrillas in the north and east.

The appeal marked the first time the group has asked U.N. help in the conflict.

The Tamil Tigers also asked for an immediate withdrawal of the 45,000 Indian troops on the is-

land. Indian troops were sent to Sri Lanka in 1987 to disarm the Tigers in order to enforce an Indian-sponsored peace accord that was designed to halt the Tamil insurrection.

The Tigers initially accepted the accord but later reneged. They resumed their attacks on members of the country's Sinhalese ethnic majority and started battling the Indian peacekeeping force.

The Tigers' letter to the U.N. claimed that "Indian troops under the cover of 'peacekeeping' operations continue to engage themselves in a ruthless and brutal war against the innocent civilian masses, causing intolerable suffering to the Tamil people."

The Tigers accused Indian soldiers of committing torture, executions without trial, and "extermination" of more than 200 prominent Tamils who opposed the 1987 accord.

In New Delhi, an Indian official rejected the Tigers' accusation, calling it "part of their usual propaganda."

"Their only human right that I think India is doing anything about is what they consider their human right to kill innocent people," he said.

A copy of the Tigers' appeal to the U.N. was telexed to news offices in Colombo from the guerrillas' information office in London. Its arrival coincided with Wednesday's withdrawal of one Indian battalion from northern Sri Lanka.

It was one of two battalions that the Sri Lankan Defence Ministry announced Tuesday would return home within the next two weeks following discussions between the Indian and Sri Lankan governments.

Two other battalions, consisting of about 3,500 men, withdrew in early January.

'U.S. holding out for Marcos deal'

MANILA (AP)—A newspaper reported Wednesday that the U.S. Justice Department threatened not to help prosecute Ferdinand Marcos if Manila negotiates an unacceptable deal for his return home.

Teodoro Locsin Jr., publisher of the Philippine Daily Globe and who is President Corazon Aquino's speechwriter, said the warning was relayed to Mateo Caparas, chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Government.

Locsin said Caparas, who is in the United States, told U.S. authorities he was authorised to negotiate with Marcos' representatives and demanded "total discretion" in his dealings.

"The U.S. attorney general has made it clear: total discretion cuts both ways. If Philippine officials have total discretion to undo years of American efforts to secure justice for the Filipino people, U.S. officials have equally total discretion to make Filipinos pay for tolerating such officials," Locsin said.

On Wednesday, Aquino said Caparas was instructed to meet with Marcos' representatives and determine if the ailing former president wanted to plea bargain on a U.S. racketeering charge in order to come home from exile in Hawaii.

"I advised him just to listen and find out really what this is all

about," she told reporters. "But he will not negotiate... I will see what they have to offer first of all, and first of all, if indeed they want to talk, because to this date, we have not received any letter authorising certain persons to speak for Mr. Marcos and Mrs. Marcos."

The Philippine government says Marcos and his associates embezzled up to \$10 billion from the nation. Aquino has said the government will not discuss his return until he repays the money.

Caparas' trip to the United States, confirmed Wednesday by Aquino, raised speculation that the Aquino administration was prepared to negotiate a deal.

Red Army member jailed for 30 years

NEWARK, New Jersey (R)—A member of the extremist Japanese Red Army out to revenge the U.S. bombing of Libya has been sentenced to 30 years in jail.

Yu Kikumura complained bitterly that his rights were being violated just before his sentence was read out Tuesday.

Prosecutors said Kikumura, 34, planned to bomb a U.S. government complex in New York April 14, 1988, the second anniversary of the Libyan raid. He was arrested with a carload of bomb and explosives two days earlier.

U.S. District Judge Alfred Lechner called Kikumura an "international terrorist" and said he must serve at least 25 of the 30 year sentence before being eli-

ble for parole. He is to be deported on his release from prison. Lechner told Kikumura, who refused to rise to hear the judge's words: "You planned to kill and injure scores of people. That is what you intended to do. Murder and main people for no apparent reason except because they are Americans."

"There is only one conclusion to draw from the type of bombs you had. They were designed for the destruction of flesh and blood, not bricks and mortar."

Before the judge handed down the sentence, Kikumura broke his silence and told the court: "I denounce the government of the United States for the illegal handling of my case. They have used my case to justify an attack on the

government and people of Libya. "I came to the United States because of my own intentions. I am not linked to Libya. The United States has fabricated stories about Libya in order to justify its own attacks on Libya."

Kikumura complained: "All my telephone conversations with my attorneys were listened into, in violation of the constitution of the United States."

As he spoke he stared at the prosecutor.

In his statement to the court, Kikumura never gave any explanation for his actions.

Prosecutors said the attack was aimed to coincide with the bombing of an American serviceman's club in Naples April 14, 1988 in which five people were killed.

Soviet global leverage seen increasing

By Christopher Hanson
Reuter

WASHINGTON—Most countries are weakened by military failure, but the Soviet Union is likely to emerge with greater global leverage once its troops have withdrawn from Afghanistan, U.S. foreign policy experts say.

They predict the negative impact of Moscow's setback will not be as severe as that of America's draining in Vietnam.

They believe the Soviet image will improve in the West and the Kremlin's influence in the Muslim world will increase once it leaves Afghanistan.

"This is not as embarrassing as the U.S. retreat from Vietnam," said Afghanistan expert Selig Harrison of the private Carnegie Endowment think-

tank, who argued that a multinational Afghan peace accord signed last April was a "big leap" allowing Kremlin forces to leave with some dignity.

When the last U.S. officials and troops evacuated Vietnam in 1975, the image was of a world power in retreat.

Television pictures showed U.S.-backed South Vietnamese soldiers clinging desperately to the struts of escaping American helicopters and U.S. diplomats whisked to safety from an embassy roof as the communists closed in.

The war created deep divisions in the United States that persisted for years, with a strong faction in Congress opposing efforts by the president to flex military muscle. Not until Ronald Reagan was elected president in 1980 did the

United States begin to reassert itself in any consistent way.

In contrast, the withdrawal from Afghanistan came as Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev was strongly asserting himself in world affairs with arms control and other initiatives that have often forced Washington into a reactive stance.

Robert Neumann, a former ambassador to Afghanistan, said the Soviet withdrawal was not likely to cause dissension within the Soviet Union but would be greeted with almost universal delight and would help Gorbachev.

A State Department Middle East expert, speaking on condition he not be identified, said Moscow would now be able to improve relations with Arab governments that had bitterly

opposed the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

This might help the Soviet Union play a bigger role in efforts to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said.

The withdrawal was also likely to improve the Soviet image in Western Europe and elsewhere and would help Gorbachev convince the world he was sincere in eschewing adventurism.

On the other hand, a legacy of anti-Soviet bitterness was likely to persist for years in Afghanistan. Some one million Afghans were killed or wounded and five million became refugees during the fighting, according to U.S. estimates.

Soviet forces intervened in Afghanistan and fought a nine-year war against Mujahideen rebels before agreeing to peace

terms.

The Soviet troops are pulling out rapidly to meet a Feb. 15 deadline for total withdrawal.

Bush administration officials say the Soviet withdrawal is a big victory for the U.S. policy of backing rebels with arms worth an estimated \$2 billion. Soviet pressure on Pakistan, a key U.S. friend that borders Afghanistan, will now almost certainly diminish.

But the officials say U.S. influence on the rebels during the likely struggle between factions to form a new government will be very limited, given the fierce independence of the various guerrilla groups.

"We can't even try to force some kind of solution for the Afghans... we've got to take our chances," the State Department Middle East expert said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Filipino charged with murder of 7

MANILA (AP)—Murder charges have been filed against a soldier who allegedly killed seven people and wounded nine others when he ran amok after a quarrel with his girlfriend, the Philippine News Agency said Wednesday. Prosecutor Adolfo Alcosaba charged constable Jesus Negro Tuesday with murder and attempted murder in a provincial court in Cebu, 560 kilometres southeast of Manila, the government-run news agency said. The military said Negro, a member of the elite special action force, went on a killing spree last Nov. 30 after he left his girlfriend's home in Tiber village in Cebu. Five people were killed and five others injured in the first volley when Negro fired his semi-automatic rifle at neighbours, it said. Negro hitched a ride on a jeep to nearby Talisay and while en route opened fire on a group of men, killing two people and wounding four others, it added. Negro was dismissed from the service five days after he surrendered to authorities.

Baker to visit all NATO capitals

WASHINGTON (AP)—James Baker's first foreign trip as secretary of state will take him to the capitals of 14 of the 15 U.S. allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) in eight days. He does not intend to overlook the 15th country, Iceland, either. Baker will stop at the Keflavik air base there for a brief session with Foreign Minister Steingrims Hermannsson in an airport lounge. Baker will cover a wide range of subjects, including East-West relations and the outlook for arms control, in his meetings from Canada to Turkey, but in visits so brief any substantive discussion obviously will be limited.

Soviet police murdered for pistols

MOSCOW (AP)—Soviet police are being killed by criminals who want their handguns, which are hard to find in the Soviet Union, the Soviet news agency TASS said Tuesday. Such guns are routinely issued only to police and security officers in the Soviet Union. Soldiers typically are issued weapons only for use in the field, and hunters must pass rigorous inspection before obtaining a rifle. TASS said murders of police officers for their guns had doubled in 1988, although it did not give any numbers. As an example, it said two young policemen in the city of Gorky were shot in the back by criminals wielding sawed-off shotguns who wanted their Makarov pistols. The attack was part of rising wave of violence in the Soviet Union, which until recently claimed to be immune to such events. Crime in general rose five per cent in 1988 and serious crime climbed six per cent, TASS said.

Colombia reports drug crackdown

BOGOTA (AP)—Colombian police have destroyed 24 cocaine-processing laboratories in a 12-day operation, and a police official says that the action has severely affected operations by the Medellin drug cartel. The operation involved 150 drug agents backed by four helicopters. An official who helped lead the raids, who declined to be identified by name, said that the sweeps were one of the strongest blows yet against Colombia's narcotics trade and had seriously affected used to process Peruvian and Bolivian coca for export. Medellin cartel members, however, appeared to have received advance information about the police raid and to have taken measures to safeguard some of their operations.

Britain to crack down on driving

LONDON (R)—Britain has announced plans to crack down on dangerous and drunken driving by introducing tougher penalties for offenders. Transport Secretary Paul Channon said Tuesday the government planned to overhaul road traffic laws and mete out jail terms of up to five years for motorists who caused death by drunken driving. It will also replace the existing offence of "reckless driving," which is hard to prove in the courts, with a more straightforward "dangerous driving" charge carrying a maximum sentence of two years. Presenting a white paper policy document on road safety, Channon told parliament that more than 5,000 people were killed and 300,000 injured on Britain's roads in 1987. The government plans a tough new driving test which those disqualified for bad driving will have to pass before getting their licences back. Courts in some areas will be able to send drink drivers to special rehabilitation courses, Channon said.

\$21m settlement in cremation case

SANTA ANA (R)—A judge Tuesday tentatively approved a \$21-million settlement of lawsuits filed by thousands of people who claim the remnants of their relatives were desecrated in group cremations. The settlement would end a legal battle focussing on practices at Harbour Lawn Memorial Park, the largest crematorium in Orange County, south of Los Angeles.

Japan announces grand amnesty

TOKYO (R)—The Japanese government Wednesday announced an amnesty for 30,000 suspects, defendants and convicts to take effect Feb. 24, the day of Emperor Hirohito's state funeral.

Eleven million people, including 8.5 million traffic law violators, will have various civil rights restored.

Convicts will have prison terms shortened or nullified while defendants will not have to stand trial as a mark of respect for Hirohito, who died Jan. 7 aged 87. Chief Cabinet Secretary Keizo Obuchi told a news conference.

People convicted or charged in violent crimes, corruption and election-law violations are not included in the amnesty, Obuchi said.

Former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka, convicted in 1983 of accepting bribes from the U.S. Lockheed Aircraft Company, will not be eligible for an amnesty despite speculation late last year that he would be included.

"(We) expect that those who will benefit from the amnesty will understand the meaning and strive to contribute to society and the nation after starting a new life," he said.

More than a third of those eligible for amnesty where charged under Japan's aliens registration law, most for not carrying their registration card.